Newsmagazine for Northern California's Gay Community and Its Friends

the latest issue

mid-july
ninety-four

volume six
issue three

WILD WOMEN IN THE WOODS!

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West Coast Women's Music & Comedy Festival Celebrates 15 Years of Women's Music!

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COVER: ANDY MARKLEY—ART 101

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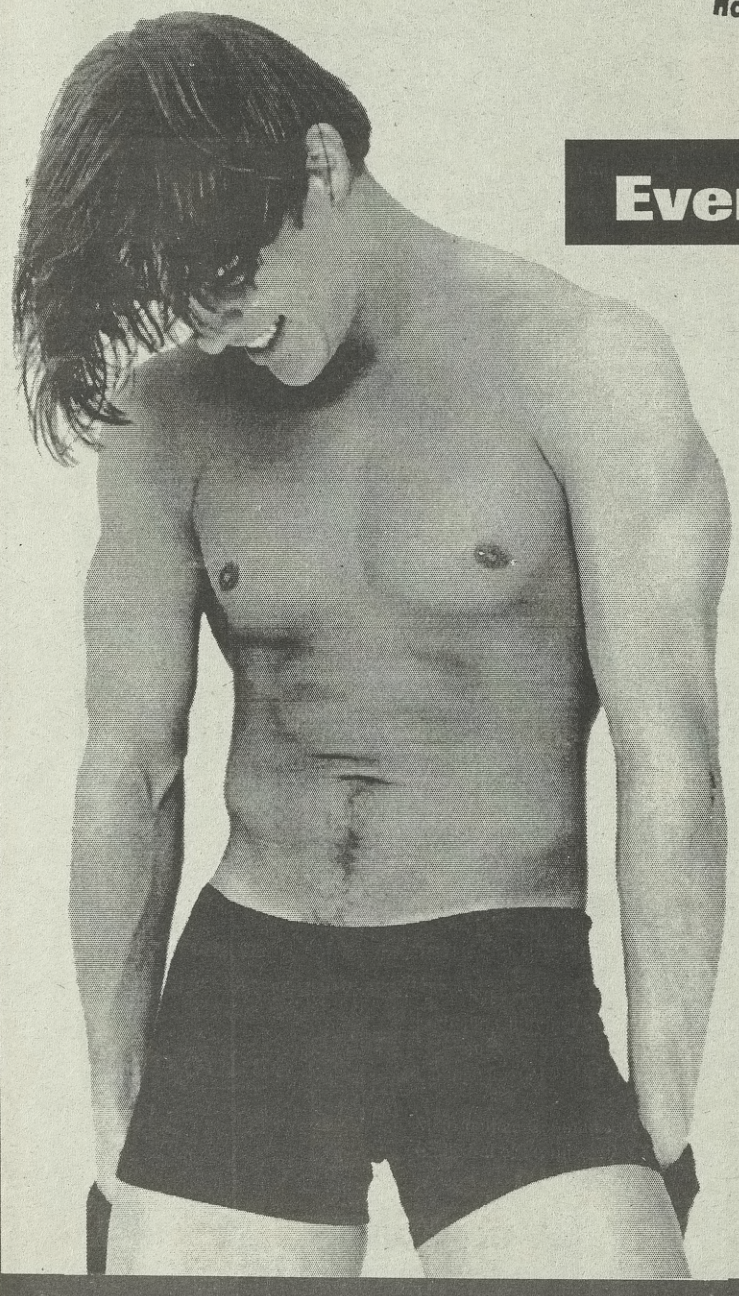

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Really I Must Say!

Taking Stonewall Home

by Michael R. Gorman

I was in a kind of exhausted euphoria when I settled into seat F16 beside the emergency exit (more leg room) on United Airlines Flight 21 out of Newark, New Jersey. In a few hours I would be back in California where the summers aren't muggy and the rain waits until at least October to fall. I looked forward to smiling at strangers on the street and not being viewed as a crazy person. A maelstrom of feelings and images of New York and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots swirled in my brain.

I intended to take home with me a measure of the spirit of pride and rebellion that Stonewall represented. I resolved to continue to confront homophobia and stare it down whenever it attempted, subtly or not, to tear away at my self respect and dignity. I promised myself to do what I could to not ignore those little digs born of ignorance that assail an openly gay person every day, but to face them and peacefully but firmly demand the respect due me as a person. I intended to remember the courage of the queens and dykes of Stonewall and try to do them proud. I did not, however, expect my resolve to be tested long before I even landed at the San Francisco International Airport.

The middle seat in my row remained empty after the final boarding call. I began to look forward to raising the arm and stretching out a bit once the seatbelt sign went off. At the last minute, a group of standby passengers came to fill the empty spaces. A white-haired gentleman (or so I thought) in his fifties or so sat down next to me. He was in a jovial mood and apologized about filling the seat. I told him he'd just better be a good conversationalist. Thus began what seemed a pleasant exchange.

As the plane took off, he talked of his daughter in New York whom he had helped find a good deal on a house. He explained that this flight was free for him because he is a pilot with United Airlines. He talked about his job with the airline. I talked of my son, my impressions of New York, my love for California. We touched on politics (he seemed conservative) and a myriad of other topics. As the flight attendants prepared the carts of drinks, the conversation lulled for a moment, and he asked me why I had been in New York.

I explained that I was covering the Stonewall 25 celebration for a Sacramento newspaper. He asked what Stonewall 25 was. I explained briefly about the riots. He asked what paper. I told him the latest ISSUE. He asked about the paper. What followed was a barrage of questions obviously intended to determine if I was gay. Once that fact was established (I was being cautious given his conservative slant, but I don't lie for anyone's comfort), his whole demeanor changed. Cringing a bit to the far side of his seat he said, "Let me ask you a question."

He then launched into a rather incoherent tirade about effeminate men and leather and chosen lifestyles and drag queens and AIDS and rebellious behavior. It was almost funny, but not quite. He finished with, "So what do you think?" I told him I wasn't sure what he was asking. He then asserted that gay people have no basis for a civil rights movement since they choose "that lifestyle." Always the teacher, I started explaining about the recent research into the genetic foundations of sexuality. He interrupted me and compared being gay to swimming out into dangerous tides against advice and drowning. I asked if he were comparing being gay with committing suicide. He said yes. I attempted to answer him, but again he interrupted me with another rhetorical question. "Why demand rights when your problems are a result of doing something you shouldn't?" I tried to respond, but he pressed on.

He said he was left handed and asked if he should start a civil rights movement for left handers. I said that if he was ever denied housing or a job or custody of his children because of his left-handedness, yes, absolutely he should start a movement. He said that that was a bad analogy and then he launched into a discussion of civil rights and having sex with geese in Central Park. It was clear he simply wanted to use me as some sort of cathartic sounding board. Homey don't play that. I responded, "How dare you compare

continued on page 8

Lambda Fair Fee Unfair

Editor,

Several years have passed since the Lambda Center opened its doors to serve the gay and lesbian community. It asked the community to support it financially, and the community did respond, allowing the center to establish and find itself and to set short and long range goals.

The time is at hand for the Center to account for itself. It can no longer state it needs money without some accounting. Reputable organizations have strict accounting practices and regularly publish these accountings.

The recent Lambda Fair had a $2.00 "donation" at the gate. Why didn't the Center have a higher usage fee for vendors? Why wasn't the "donation" mentioned in any of the advertisements for the Fair?

Why did a volunteer at the Center tell me "what's the big deal about another $2.00 to you if you give $100.00" each year when I inquired about the "donation"? Well, it is a big deal to me. Would the Center prefer

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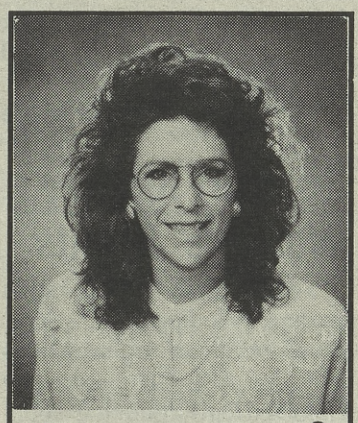

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Tuesdays

- Sexual Knowledge in the Nineties 7:00PM (beginning 8/9)

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- Eagles (for seniors) 8/10 & 8/24 6:30PM
- African-American Men's Group 7/27, 8/31 6:30PM
- H.E.A.L. - Health Education and Awareness for Lesbians 7:00PM (call for dates)

Thursdays

- Being Alive Living Room for PWAs 2-5PM
- Women's Coming Out Group 6:00PM
- CODA (co-dependents anonymous) 7:30PM

Fridays

- Youth Rap Group (24 & under) 5:45PM
- Café Lambda 8:00PM - Midnight

Saturdays

- Youth Social (24 & under) 8:00PM
- Traffic School 8/13 8AM-4:30PM
- Homebuyer's Seminar 7/30 10:00AM-1:00PM

Sundays

- Sac Area Bisexual Network 8/7 & 8/21 6:30PM
- Eagles Bike Club (for seniors) 8/14 & 8/28 10AM
- Gay Fathers 9/11 5:30PM (no August meeting)

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National Newsbits

AIDS Czar Resigns

National AIDS Policy Coordinator Kristine Gebbie resigned July 8. In her resignation statement send to President Clinton, Gebbie said, "In assessing the contributions I have been priviledged to make, the issues being raised about how the office could be more effective, and the changes which are necessary to keep your agenda moving, I have decided to leave this postion at the end of this first year."

Some of the work Gebbie inacted during her year include the creation of the Task Force on AIDS Drug Developement and the first Office of AIDS Research in the National Institutes for Health.

Lesbian Mom Wins Custody

In a dramatic reversal, a Virginia appeals court this week ordered a two-year-old child returned to his lesbian mother, Sharon Bottoms, and chastised a lower court for declaring Bottoms unfit to raise the child.

The Virginia State Court of Appeals in Richmond ruled June 21, that a trial court in Henrico County, VA., acted improperly last year when it removed Tyler Doustou from the custody of Bottoms and her lover, April Wade, and placed him in the custody of his grandmother.

"The fact that a parent is homosexual does not per se render a parent unfit to have custody of his or her child," stated Judge Sam W. Coleman III, who wrote a unanimous opinion in the case for a three judge appeals panel.

"In this case," Coleman stated, "the evidence fails to prove that Sharon Bottoms, the child's mother, abused or neglected her son, that her lesbian relationship with April Wade has or will have a deleterious effect on her son, or that she is an unfit parent. To the contrary," Coleman added, "the evidence showed that Sharon Bottoms is and has been a fit and nurturing parent who has adequately provided and cared for her son."

Washington Blade

Support for Gay Workers' Rights

Washington - Civil rights leaders, including Coretta Scott King, religious organizations and the AFL-CIO yesterday endorsed legislation that would prohibit workplace discrimination because of sexual orientation.

"Freedom and justice cannot be parceled out in pieces to suit political convenience," said King, widow of Martin Luther King Jr. "Like Martin, I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others."

The bill, introduced by Senators Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., John Chafee, R-R.I., and 28 cosponsors, would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring, firing, promotion and pay.

It would not apply to the military, religious organizations and to schools affiliated with religious organizations. Businesses with fewer than 15 employees also would be exempt, but profit-making affiliates of religious organizations would be covered.

It also would specifically prohibit preferential treatment, including quotas, based on sexual orientation and would not require employers to provide benefits to their workers' same-sex partners.

"This bill is not about granting special rights. It is about righting senseless wrongs," Kennedy said at a news conference announcing introduction of the bill. "What it requires is simple justice for gay men and lesbians."

San Francisco Chronicle

Guide to Fighting the Right

Community activists fending off assaults by the radical right can now draw on the experiences of dozens of groups that have already been there.

A coalition of more than 60 national and local organizations has produced a guide titled "How to Win: A Practical Guide to Defeating the Radical Right In Your Community".

The task force is charging a $25 fee for the 150 page manual that will cover printing and mailing, and will include the information on disk. People are encouraged to distribute the information as widely as possible. Write: PFLAG 1012 14th St. NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005.

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Around the Nation

Stonewall 25 Takes New York

by Michael R. Gorman

In a town known for its gritty toughness and casual cynicism, it is not easy to be noticed. New York absorbs international events the way a smaller town might take for granted a sale on tomato sauce at the market. But on the weekend of the Stonewall 25 celebration, the city paid attention.

Traffic warnings went out, hundreds of police from all five boroughs converged on Manhattan, Broadway's gay themed shows sold out months in advance and the New York Times filled two pages of the op-ed section with tres-gay editorials.

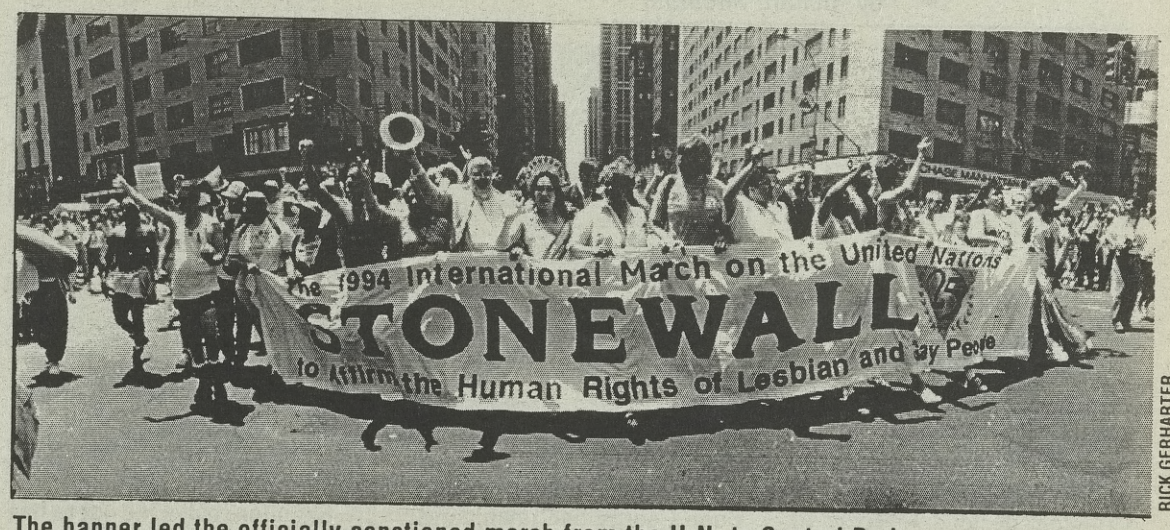
Between the Gay Games, a multitude of gay conferences, the taping of Comedy Central's second all gay standup special and the Stonewall march and rally, New York became for a week the gayest city in the world. Organizers estimated the weekend participation at 1.1 million, making it the largest gathering of its kind in history.

Among the conferences meeting in New York that week were The 16th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference, the BiNet USA Annual Meeting, the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International, the International Alliance of Courts, the 16th Annual World Conference of The International Lesbian and Gay Association, and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Throughout the week, the bars and streets and shops and restaurants of Greenwich Village, and particularly Christopher Street, remained a hub of activity and a home base for out-of-towners. A street faire at the end of Christopher Street on the wharf beside the Hudson River attracted shoulder to shoulder crowds all weekend. The air smelled of sausages and gyros and beer rather than the stir-fry scents of California fairs.

Performances around town provided a veritable who's who of gay, lesbian and bisexual entertainers. Sir Ian McKellen prepared a one-man show specifically for Stonewall 25. He performed to raves at the Lyceum Theater. Kate Clinton added special showings of her off-Broadway hit "Out is In." Charles Pierce, Charles Busch, Jose Sarria, Nelson Reilly and others sashayed their way onto the stage of the first International Drag Festival.

Harvey Fierstein appeared with Liza Minelli and a host of others in a show that was the talk of the town. Amanda Bearse, Marga Gomez, Suzanne Westenhoefer and others kept the comedy stages lit. Plays, art shows, literary readings, historic displays, film festivals, dance shows, concerts and photographic exhibitions were ongoing all over the city during the month.



RICK GERHARTER

The banner led the officially sanctioned march from the U.N. to Central Park.

> Stonewall finally found its way to the front page of the New York Times.

The march scheduled for Sunday, June 6 was not without its controversies as well. Earlier in the year, national gay and lesbian leaders as high-profile as Torie Osborn questioned the need for the Stonewall commemoration. Some feared it would be a frivolous party that would confirm stereotypes and eat up gay dollars better spent on political action elsewhere.

Yet the organizers saw their efforts lead to discussions of the Stonewall Riots, previously ignored in the straight world, on every major television network and in print media around the world. From a small story tucked deeply in the paper in 1969, Stonewall finally found its way to the front page of the New York Times . . . above the fold.

In addition to criticism within the community, the organizers also faced stonewalling by city hall. Mayor Giuliani's office refused to approve a permit for the original march route up Fifth Avenue, a traditional parade route in New York. Many claimed that he feared a confrontation when the march passed St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Later, after the march route was established, the mayor's office called organizers asking to allow the mayor to lead the parade. The Stonewall 25 committee refused. When the New York Times picked up the story, the mayor's spokesperson claimed that Mayor Giuliani thought other government officials were marching at the head of the parade. He ended up marching back with the other elected officials.

The city permit allowed the march to begin at the United Nations Building and wind its way toward Central Park down 1st Avenue, 57th Street and 6th Avenue. The mile long Rainbow Flag that led the march managed to take the corners without a hitch.

When city hall announced the route, The New York Chapter of Gay and Lesbian Americans (the new national group formed by Larry Kramer and others),

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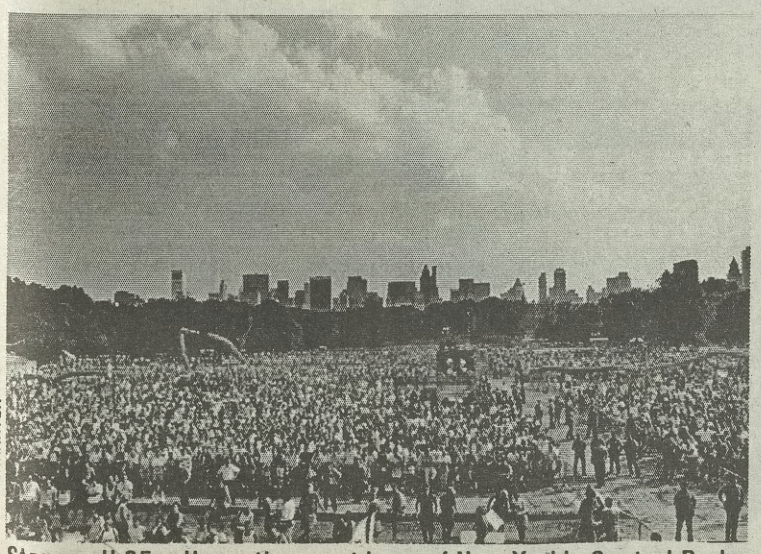
RICK GERHARTER

Stonewall 25 rally on the great lawn of New York's Central Park.

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Lesbian Daughter of Cobb County Commissioner

Speaks Out Against Ignorance in Home Town

by **Richard Shumate**

After months of turmoil, the lesbian daughter of the chairman of Georgia's Cobb County Commission joins the fight against its anti-gay resolution.

For Shannon Byrne, the weekend should have been one of pure celebration. After years of hard work, she had finally earned her art degree from Alabama's Huntington college. She and her partner, Cheryl Crowson, decided to come to Atlanta, where they planned to settle after college, in order to celebrate her achievement.

But when they arrived in the city on that hot weekend last August, they were confronted with the news that had left Atlanta's gay/lesbian community shaken and seething -- the county commission in suburban Cobb County had unanimously and officially adopted a resolution condemning the "gay lifestyle" and had yanked all county funding for the arts after a local theater company presented a play that mentioned homosexuality.

Shannon Byrne took the news very personally. For not only was she an artist and a native of Cobb County, but her father, Bill Byrne, was chairman of the county commission that had condemned her. And he had voted for the measure knowing that his daughter was a lesbian.

"I just couldn't believe he had voted for it," she says. "It had never been a confrontational issue before."

Shannon had come out to her father and the rest of her family four years ago, when she was 20. While she and her father rarely discussed her sexuality, "He wasn't saying ugly things about it either." So to her his vote for the resolution was inexplicable.

Shannon spent the weekend holed up in her hotel room, working the telephone, desperately trying to reach her father, who happened to be out of town.

"Once I did get a hold of him, I was very emotional about it," she said. "He really didn't have a reason [for his vote] at the time."

After calming down from that first emotional confrontation, she and her father eventually did discuss his reasons for supporting the resolution, which stated that Cobb County supported "traditional" family values.

"He came from a traditional family, and he said he believes a traditional family works better," she says. (Ironically, however, Shannon's father did not provide her with the Ozzie-and-Harriet existence that he prizes. He and Shannon's mother are divorced, and he is now on his third marriage.)

That weekend was just the beginning of months of turmoil in Shannon Byrne's life --- months in which her own private pain became intertwined with a very public controversy.

While activists working to overturn the resolution knew early on that Bill Byrne's daughter was a lesbian (indeed, Byrne had told them himself), it was not public knowledge. And after moving back to Atlanta, Shannon Byrne did not interject herself into the debate over the resolution. She had never been an activist and had no interest in being one, and she feared how coming out publicly might impact her family.

But as the months dragged on, as the controversy deepened and as her father and his fellow commissioners grew more intractable, her emotions started to build. She finally decided she had to act.

So in June, Shannon Byrne, a soft-spoken woman who never before wanted the media spotlight, stood before an assemblage of television cameras and reporters and publicly discussed very private issues about her sexuality and her family.

"It was scary. I was definitely nervous," she says. "But I just knew that this was my time to finally say what I needed to say."

"I had no idea what the reaction would be." She said one of her biggest fears was that nobody would take her seriously. "I've been wrong about that."

Indeed, Shannon Byrne's press conference was front page news in Atlanta and made headlines around the country. In the days following the announcement, she fielded dozens of requests for interviews.

"Life is definitely different,"

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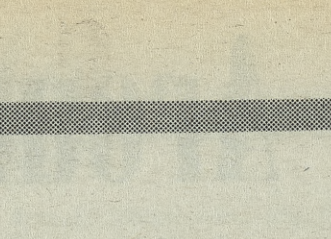

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Sacramento

Athletes Return from the Gay Games in New York

Bringing Home Gold, Silver and Bronze

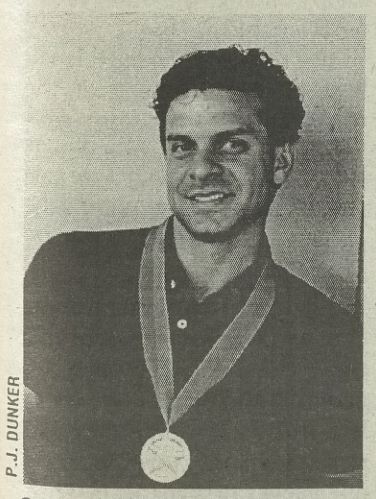
by **P.J. Dunker**

Sacramentans brought home both golden memories and medals from Gay Games IV in New York City. Several area athletes shared their experiences with *the latest ISSUE.*

Darrell Rice was a participant in volleyball, the sport with the largest number of participants and six different venues to accommodate them all. He stated that his most memorable experiences were, "the opening and closing ceremonies, having all the athletes together. We played against a team from Puerto Rico and a team from Switzerland." When asked for his thoughts on why volleyball was so popular, he said, "It's a friendly sport. Just about anyone can compete. It's competitive in the higher divisions, but we're out to have a good time."

Darrell is a veteran of all four Gay Games. "To me, it's an incredible feeling just to be a part of it. . . to have all these people who come from all over the world to compete and make friends. It's history in the making." Darrell says he is definitely going to Amsterdam in 1998. He also stressed his appreciation for the support SAGA received from area residents.

SAGA IV Men's Volleyball Team at Opening Ceremonies .



P.J. DUNKER

Gold medalist in Men's Figure Skating, J.P. Licari.

Martha Oyog said that playing softball was fun, but the final ceremonies were even more memorable than her event. "Being there with millions of gay people was great, that feeling was just outstanding. We walked in that stadium and I just couldn't believe it."

"We won all six of our first games. So we got a day off, and it was like a nice reward. Then the next day was our first game (medal round single elimination tournament play.) We came out against the New York team, and we lost. The Long Beach team was real competitive, and they got knocked out. A lot of the good, good teams, like Oakland, got knocked out right away," said Oyog. Missouri was the team that won the gold in the end.

Members of the Sacramento Women's Softball Team.

When asked if she had any plans to go to Amsterdam in four years she said, "Yes, I'm going to wrestle. I never knew that women could wrestle."

J.P. Lacari was Sacramento's solo gold medalist, in men's figure skating, always a very competitive, glamorous sport. It was no different at the Gay Games. In fact, the costuming may have been even more flamboyant. "There was one lesbian who skated almost nude who really got the crowd going. I kept thinking, 'Oh my God, honey, aren't you freezing' because I was cold and I had on a tank top." Even so, JP's skating was golden hot. When *the latest ISSUE* contacted him about his medal he replied, "Oh yes, I have it with me right now. I've been taking it with me everywhere since I got back." JP was thrilled at having won the gold. "It was fun. I had a great time," he said with such enthusiasm that the medal seemed almost secondary for the moment.

Theresa Muth won the most medals of all of the athletes from Sacramento totalling eight in all. "Competition was high at these Games... in an event I won gold in Vancouver, I came in sixth this year. There were ten world records set in swimming alone." she said. The spirit of unity permeated the Gay Games -- spirited competition was mixed with a feeling of one big family. One of the most moving moments for Theresa was the 400 meter individual freestyle in which an 81 year-old man was competing. "On his last lap, the whole crowd just stood and clapped him in." Both Theresa and her life partner Maggie Redmon both won medals but their most memorable moment was when they entered Yankee Stadium for the closing ceremonies, "Seeing the stadium full was an incredible feeling" said Maggie.

"Now I'm looking forward to the next Gay Games in Amsterdam in 1998," said Theresa, "That should be even more incredible!"

KATE MOORE

Life-partners Theresa Muth and Maggie Redmon.

See page 8 for a list of the Sacramento medalists from Gay Games IV.

RICK GERHARTER

The Gay Games in New York was truly an international event. The 1998 Games are in Amsterdam.

Gay Games IV

Sacramento's Medal Winners

Dick Dugan
-- Bowling - A Div Doubles -- Silver
Larry Miller
-- Bowling - A Div Doubles -- Silver
J.P. Licari
-- Men's Ice Skate Singles Div 4 -- Gold
Kerry Freeman
-- Women's 100 Freestyle -- Silver, Women's 200 Freestyle -- Silver, Women's 400 Ind. Medley -- Silver, Women's 100 Meter Ind Medley -- Bronze, Mixed 200 Medley Relay -- Bronze, Mixed 400 Medley Relay -- Silver, Mixed 400 Freestyle Relay -- Silver
Maggie Redmon
-- Women's 100 Meter Breast -- Bronze, Women's 200 Meter Breast -- Bronze, Mixed 200 Meter Freestyle Relay -- Bronze
David Granger
-- Mixed 200 Meter Freestyle Relay 40 + Age Group -- Bronze
David Ugarkovich
-- Men's 200 Meter Breast -- Gold, Men's 100 Meter Breast -- Gold, Men's 100 Meter Back -- Silver, Men's 400 Meter I.M. -- Bronze, Men's 50 Meter Back -- Gold, Mixed 200 Meter Freestyle Relay 40 + -- Bronze, Men's 200 Meter Back -- Silver
Andy Brennan
-- Men's 200 Meter Breast -- Bronze, Mixed 200 Medley Relay 30 + -- Bronze, Mixed 400 Medley Relay 30+ -- Silver
Theresa Muth
-- Women's 200 Meter Butterfly -- Silver, Women's 100 Meter Butterfly -- Silver, Women's 50 Meter Butterfly -- Bronze, Women's 100 Meter Ind. Medley -- Silver, Mixed 200 Meter Freestyle Relay 40 + Age Group -- Bronze, Mixed 200 Medley Relay 30 + -- Bronze, Mixed 400 Medley Relay 30 +-- Silver, Mixed 400 Freestyle Relay 30 + -- Silver
Glen Stewart
-- Mixed 200 Medley Relay 30 + -- Bronze, Mixed 400 Medley Relay 30 + -- Silver, Mixed 400 Freestyle Relay 30 + -- Silver
Scott Reuss
-- Mixed 400 Freestyle Relay 30 + Age Group -- Silver
Virginia Maulfair
-- Women's Discuss 55 + Yrs -- Gold, Women's Javelin 55 + Yrs -- Gold, Women's Shotput 55 + Yrs -- Gold
Marykay Martin
-- Women's Cycling -- Bronze

COMMENTARY

continued from page 3

my love to bestiality! How dare you!" (And they call US the perverts!) He continued. I told him the conversation was over. He talked on. I firmly told him to stop talking to me. He kept at it. I tried to leave, but the drink carts were in the aisle. I stared out the window and tried to ignore him.

When the carts had passed, I went up front to the head flight attendant. I told her what had happened, unable at this point to hold back tears of anger and frustration and hurt. The attendant was appalled. I asked for a new seat. There were none, but she said she would take care of it. She arranged for the offender to go sit in the cockpit for the rest of the flight. As he passed me on his way to the front, he again tried to accost me. I ordered him away loudly, three times before he backed off. I asked that a supervisor from United meet the plane when it landed and went back to my seat.

The head attendant came back and apologized on behalf of the captain on duty. She then queried, "You're a journalist, aren't you?" When I affirmed the fact, she rolled her eyes and shook her head as if to say, "How stupid can that man be?" She handed me some more kleenex, asked if I wanted anything to drink and then asked what I wanted from the airline. I said a letter of apology from United, another from the offending pilot, a reprimand for the pilot and a refund for the flight. The other attendants held my dinner until I was relaxed enough to eat it.

Unable to stay in the location of the assault, I walked back to the back of the plane and stood with the attendants and a few other passengers. One attendant said that if it had been one of them they would have been fired on the spot. Another gave me a flower from first class. They let me talk. They were wonderful. I added to my demands later that I wanted some sort of commendation for the attendants.

When I disembarked in San Francisco, the homophobic pilot was standing at the door, despite reassurances that he would not be. He tried again to approach me in the terminal and had to be herded away by the customer service director who was attempting to talk to me. She eventually put me through to the pilot's supervisor in Chicago. He alerted the legal department.

Sometimes standing up for yourself costs dearly. I am facing legal bills over being fired for my sexuality by a school district in Southern California. At times the legal battle seems too high a price to pay for a measure of self respect. Sometimes, however, a big company does the right thing. Perhaps they are acting out of fear because of waves made by activists before me. (Remember the airline pillow/blanket scandal after the March on Washington?) But just maybe those of us who stand our ground are actually teaching people about basic fairness and humanity. I choose to believe the latter.

In any case, United Airlines has chosen to do the right thing. Attorney Craig Busey in Chicago confirmed today on the phone that United will meet each of my demands as well as sending me a flight voucher (a substantial one) to compensate for the flight from hell. Sadly, at least one major newspaper told me that, because of the happy ending, the story is not newsworthy.

I beg to differ. To me it is the best of news that all of the marching, all of the sign painting, all of the debate over parade routes, all of the sore legs and voices, all of the lonely nights in front of the computer are slowly paying off. Our voice, the voice of reason and justice, is being heard. I dedicate this small victory to the unknown activists who paved the way. It is up to us to perpetuate the momentum and never, ever let our voices fall silent again. Wish me bon voyage.

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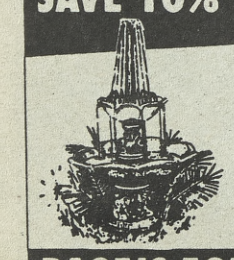
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Sacramento

New Community Garden Harvests Food For PWAs

by **D.A. Borad**

Sacramento has a new community garden dedicated to growing fresh vegetables and medicinal herbs for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Run by Positive Gourmet Food Services, a local umbrella organization that has been providing services to people with AIDS, the garden is an attempt to bring needed food to people in the greater Sacramento area.

Currently the garden is one half acre of cultivated land cared for by volunteers. As the project gets more helpers, donations for plants, and other gardening supplies the organizers hope to expand the operation to include all of the two-acre parcel donated to them. Located in Elk Grove, the land donated is part of Dennis Buscher Ranch and sits next to a renovated Victorian on the grounds -- among rose bushes, rolling lawns, and pine trees. The volunteers often comment on the soul-satisfying nature of their work, and the peace of the garden itself.

The food grown will go to a new "Meals on Wheels" type of program. Called Harvest Express, the program will bring hot meals daily to people with HIV/AIDS. Other crops the volunteers want to grow are various medicinal herbs used in alternative treatments for HIV infection. Positive Gourmet Food Services and the community garden are modeled after gardens in cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Thomas Vasques, the founder of Positive Gourmet Food Services comments, "I've networked in New York City with an organization called Gods Love/We Deliver . . . in San Francisco with Project Open Hand . . . learning everything they do, which is the largest in the nation." They have also had help from Angels Food in Los Angeles in designing their Harvest Express program. Following pioneering programs like Project Open Hand is a sure way to make the garden a success.

The garden is off to a good start, but they have their work cut out for them. Like all volunteer groups they are in need of people and money to keep going. If you want to donate your time or can make donations of goods or services, or if you need their help, you can contact Positive Gourmet Food Services at (916) 851-9850.

The Court Reporter

President Plans Greater Efficiency

by **Stephanie Carlisle**

Since his election as President of the Board of Directors of the Court of the Great Northern Imperial Empire, Inc., Mark Fleming has made it his goal to make sure the Court runs more like an efficient business.

"The goal of the Court is simply to raise money for charity," says Mark, "not just for AIDS, but also for children, food closets, etc. Our priority is mainly-- but not exclusively-- to the gay community."

Sometimes, the wishes of the Court, as stated by the Emperors and Empress, run up against those on the Board who hold the purse-strings. Last month, for example, Emperor Jim had announced plans for Investiture '94 that were to take place on board a riverboat, as reported in my last column. When the cost of the venture was taken into account by the Board, it was vetoed as too much of a gamble with Court funds.

Although Fleming has no vote on the Board (except in case of a tie vote), he can and does speak his mind on issues and often influences the outcome of decisions made.

In his regular job, Mark manages a retail auto-parts store. That experience obviously adds to his business acumen.

"We have committees, one of which is new," says Fleming. They are: Production, which co-ordinates the setting-up of facilities for events, and also does staging and lighting for Court functions; Finance, which researches competitive costs of facilities, handles ticket sales and reports to the Board for expense approval; Publicity and Promotion, which deals with the media, prints posters, makes public announcements, and takes care of photography at all events; and Food and Liquor, (well, if you don't know, don't ask.)

continued on page 20

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Russian River

Cal Trans Gives River Businesses a Break

by Kate Moore

The people of Guerneville came together in June to protest road work by Cal Trans that would have crippled the only major road through town and endangered businesses including the largest gay resort in the country -- Fifes.

Senator Mike Thompson meets with Fifes' owner David Cole at the demonstration site.

Without warning, Cal Trans workers arrived at River Road in front of Fifes Resort on June 16 and began work on replacing a culvert in order to enhance flood prevention in the area. "The noise was astounding," said David Cole, owner of Fifes. "We have a four month window to make a profit here -- people couldn't sit by the pool or in the restaurant without being annoyed by the noise. People were checking out because of it."

The next day an act of civil disobedience was called by Cole and other area business owners, and approximately 40 people stood in the way of the project. Police responded to a call but made no arrests. During the stand-off with Cal Trans officials and the police, Senator Mike Thompson arrived and mediated the situation, calling off the work until a town meeting could be held.

On June 21, business owners, Cal Trans representatives and contractors gathered at the Odd Fellows Hall in Guerneville to express their positions and to come up with a compromise.

The participants left the meeting with several different options on the table and returned two days later agreeing to delay the work until after the summer season -- October 1.

KATE MOORE

Demonstrators stopped work on the project by sitting in the jaws of Cal Trans equiptment.

According to Cal Trans representative Skip Sowko, "We want to make the correction and accomodate the concerns, but we're not doing anything outrageous."

Originally the project was scheduled to take four months but with the beginning date of October 1, work will have to be rushed to miss the rainy season.

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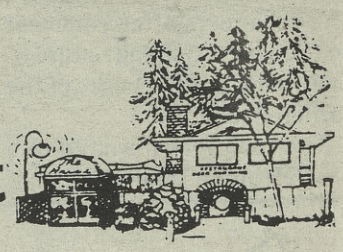

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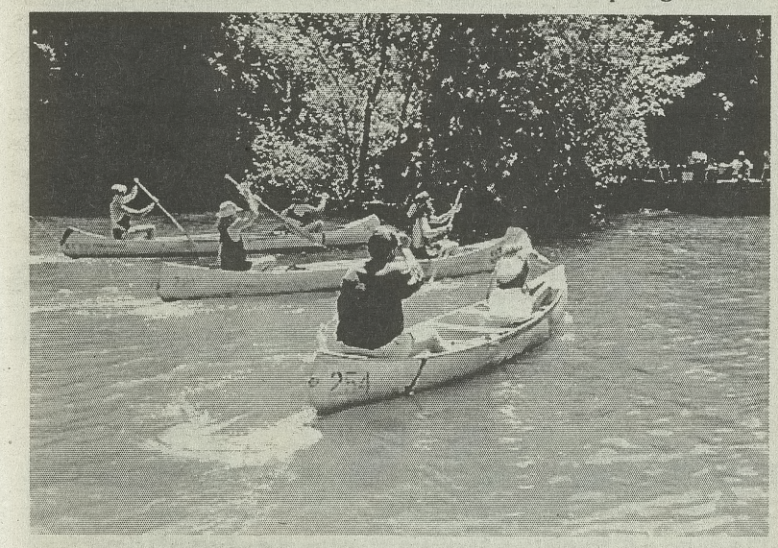
Anything Goes at the River's Cup Regatta

by **Kate Moore**

The River's Cup Canoe Race and "Anything Goes" Regatta is a weekend of friendly competition that exemplifies the wacky and spontaneous spirit of the Russian River.

The River's Cup Weekend, August 6 and 7, brings media celebrities together with the Guerneville locals for a pool tournament, a canoe race and a flotilla and is one of the largest fundraising events for people with AIDS or ARC in Sonoma County. This year's events will benefit the Face to Face PWA Assistance Fund, Food for Thought and Henry House.



The canoe race was a close one at last year's River's Cup.

Local TV and radio personalities lead off the weekend as they come out to raise money and AIDS awareness at the Annual Russ Coughlan Memorial Pool Tournament at Molly Brown's Saloon on August 6. Included on the "Media Swine" team this year are Pete Wilson of KRON-TV, Pat Kerrigan of FM105 and Jill Coughland of KGO-TV. They will challenge the local "River Rats" in the tournament. Challenge games are $10 and include a pig nose that is required attire during the game.

Russ Coughlan of KGO-TV passed away of a heart attack in January of 1991, and in honor of his dedication, concern and support for those with AIDS, the River's Cup has continued this popular event as a tribute.

The Canoe Race and The Regatta on August 7 are two distinctly different events. The Canoe Race runs approximately 4 miles, starting at Fifes Resort and continuing downstream to Vacation Beach summer dam and bridge before heading back to Fifes and the finish line.

The River's Cup Regatta follows the race and moves at a less frenetic pace. Contestants place their rafts or floats in at Vacation Beach and float down to the judging area at Fife's resort.

Pete Wilson of KRON and Pat Kerrigan of FM105 will return this year for the pool tournament.

This "Anything that Floats" Regatta began as an "Inner Tube Regatta" until 1988 when Fred Wilson and friends entered the first float. Wilson was an enthusiastic man who had a passion for costume design and brought magic to the Regatta. After living with AIDS for many years, Fred Wilson passed away, but in his memory the Fred A. Wilson Trophy was created.

Last year's winner of the Fred A. Wilson Trophy went to the float titled "Queen of Denial" sponsored by Redwood Property Services. "We tied together 4 canoes and got a lot of mylar and created the float. T.J. McDaniel was the 'Queen of Denial' and he was one big Queen" said John Dowdy, Redwood Property Services owner. "Our entry this year will be even more fun!"

Other prizes awarded in both the Canoe Race and Regatta include trophies for best individual and best business entries.

Following the River's Cup Canoe Race and Regatta is the Finish Line Party at Fife's Resort featuring a carnival, barbecue and Country Western music by FM105, with line-dancing and two-stepping. (Lessons too)

General admission to the post-race party is $10, seniors $7.50, children 6 - 12 years $5 and those 5 and under are free. Admission includes food and soft drinks.

For more information about entering the River's Cup Canoe Race and Regatta call (707) 869-9000.

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Leather Weekend Welcomes Pussy Tourette

It's time again for Leather Weekend at the River (August 12 - 14), and organizers are calling the event the "Comedy Leather Weekend from Hell."

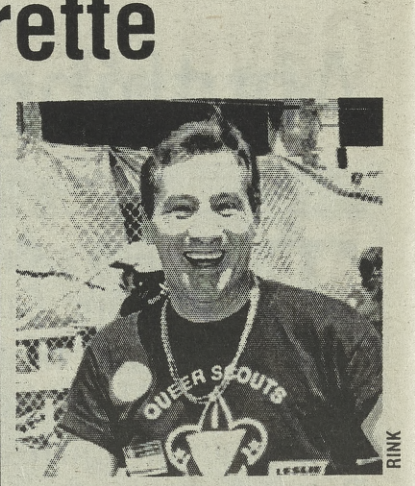
Entertainment for the weekend includes the fantastic Pussy Tourette, Tom Ammiano and Lurch. They, of course, will be in addition to the unofficial entertainment sure to be provided by hundreds of men and women who will come to celebrate the joy and pain of the leather lifestyle.

"We want to promote the pan-sexual/pan-racial aspects," said organizer St. Clair Adams. "This is not a white male elitist event --- everyone is welcome: gay, straight, bi, transgender, male and female."

The schedule of events begins Friday night at Ziggurat bar with local comedian, Lurch. On Saturday the daytime entertainment will be the Daddy and Daddy's Boy contest along with the Ms. Russian River Leather competition at the Willows Resort. Saturday night the fun moves again to Ziggurat with featured entertainers Pussy Tourette and Tom Ammiano.

The judging for the two leather events Saturday will be a bit unusual. Contestants will be given a sheet of services to perform with other people, and upon completion, the servicees will critique their performances. "Sometimes the events can get tiresome, so this way we can keep them exciting," said Adams.

Leather Weekend passes are $27 and are available by phone at (707) 837-9951, or by mail to Leather Weekend, P.O. Box 816, Windsor, CA 95492.



RINK

Tom Ammiano is the MC for the Saturday Night show.

LETTERS

continued from page 3

that I drop all future donations in order to pay the $2.00 donation? To receive a guest pass (as vendors received) would have been a nice "Thank you" for being a Lambda 400 donor. For that matter, why hasn't the Center ever sent me a thank you letter for the monies I have contributed this year and in years past?

Also, why didn't Joanna Cassese return my phone call to discuss this matter?

It is time for each of us to not think of the Center as a gay charity, but as any other charity and whether or not it is deserving of our financial support.

Falcon Lee

Thank You for Support

Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came out and supported the Grand Opening of Jammin' Jo's Sports and Dance Bar. Thanks to all the performers who made the night exciting. I am very grateful for the overwhelming response the Opening received.

Most of all, I would like to thank all my wonderful friends who have contributed many hours of hard work to get us open in such a short period of time. **THANK YOU.**

Jammin' Jo's Sports and Dance Bar is a non-smoking place for women athletes and their friends. Men are welcome too! We will be focusing on women in sports. So, if you have any memorabilia you would like to donate please drop it by. Your name will be put on display next to your donation. Bring in pictures from when you were playing sports and it will be placed on the Jammin' Jo's Wall of Fame!

All suggestions are welcomed. This is not just my bar, this is our bar. So, with your continued support Jammin' Jo's will be around for a long, long time.

Thank you once again, have a great summer and come by and see us. (See ad on back page for more information)

Respectfully,
Jolanne T. Tierney
Owner, Jammin' Jo's

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Gays Say "I Do" at Sonoma County Pride Fest

by **Lois Pearlman**

While state legislators wrangled over a domestic partners law, Lori Louise and Nance Michalos decided to make their relationship official in their own way. They got married in a mass ceremony at Santa Rosa Junior College last month, along with over 40 other gay and straight couples.

The wedding was the highlight of Sonoma County's annual Lesbian and Gay Pride event, which also featured a parade down Mendocino Avenue and an afternoon celebration with speakers and entertainment.

Of course, none of the marriages will be recognized as legal by the state of California, but that didn't seem to faze the participants, or the crowd of approximately 3,000 people who observed the festivities.

Spirits were high for the Sonoma Gay Pride Parade.

According to organizers, eleven lesbian couples and one gay male couple had pre-registered for the ceremony, but so many more people decided to join in at the last moment that they overflowed the stage and had to stand in a long line on the grass to take their vows. The group also included three heterosexual couples who displayed their support of gay and lesbian marriage by sharing in the occasion.

For some this was the first time they had declared their union in a public ceremony, but for others, including the Michalos', the wedding served as a renewal of their marriage vows.

"We are recommitting our love to each other," said Lori Louise and Nance Michalos, who met while working at a women's bookstore in Santa Rosa five years ago, and were married a year later.

Decked out in everything from gowns and tuxes to jean shorts and flower garlands, the couples exchanged rings, spoke their private vows, kissed, hugged and shed some tears. Several of the lesbian couples held their babies in their arms throughout the ceremony.

Lori Louise and Nance got married along with 40 other couples at the June 12 event.

After Church of Religious Science minister, Edward Viljoen declared them "united in love and life," they prommenaded to the strains of "Unchained Melody," and were escorted to a reception where they shared sparkling cider and wedding cake with friends and family.

"We know that miracles will take place because of what has happened here today," said Karyl Teixeira, a Church of Religious Science minister who officiated at the wedding along with Viljoen.

The wedding ceremony was a first for the Sonoma County lesbian, gay and bi-sexual community, and it was the eighth consecutive public Pride celebration. In June 1987 the first Pride event, a picnic held at Santa Rosa's Spring Lake, attracted a crowd of about 300 people.

"It has evolved into something that is grand." said Magi Fedorka a Santa Rosa lesbian activist who was the main promoter of the 1987 event.

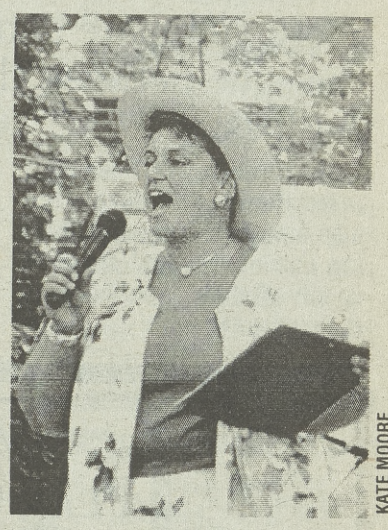
Fedorka decided to organize that first picnic after county supervisors refused to even consider a local Lesbian and Gay Pride Week resolution. For the next four years local activists continued to fight for a local Pride Week, until they finally succeeded in attaining a majority vote three years ago when a long-time supervisor resigned to take a state post, and a new supervisor was appointed.

Since then, county supervisors have approved a local Lesbian and Gay Pride Week, and even extended it to a Pride Month this year by a unanimous vote.

For the past four years the community has kicked off the annual celebration with a parade down Santa Rosa's main thoroughfare, Mendocino Avenue, and this year was no exception. A variety of local organizations and lesbian and gay-owned businesses participated in an exuberant parade that featured floats, disco dancers and a kazoo-playing Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Marching Band.

Following the parade and wedding ceremony, the celebration continued in SRJC's central plaza, featuring performances by Roland's Review, the Napa Valley Women's Chorus, Tom Smith and Tunesmith, the Garth Steen Trio, MOMI Starr, Sophisticated and Silver Trio, Walter Thompson, LALLO, and Lindy Chandler.

Local Congresswoman and gay rights supporter Lynn Woolsey addressed the crowd and attorney Caren Callahan introduced the Sonoma County domestic partners initiative.



KATE MOORE

One of the Pride Fest organizers Rosemarie Grassa welcomed the crowd.

Towards the middle of the proceedings, Cynthia Carr sang "Remember Me" as dozens of white doves were released in memory of friends and loved ones who have died.

For dancing enthusiasts, another stage featured disco music all afternoon with DJ's Loren, Torch and Robin.

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9pm - 2am - Leather Dance - Ziggurat $12
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San Francisco

Unity Expo Brings Gay Issues to Corporate America

by **Michael R.Gorman**

As corporate America has begun to take notice of the gay/lesbian/bisexual community as a powerful market force and a political contingency to be reckoned with, more and more doors are opening for dialogue between the community and business.

As more corporations offer protections to their gay and lesbian employees, more of them are coming out and speaking openly of their experiences in the corporate world.

Though doors are opening, there is still much misunderstanding about sexual minorities in big business. Business leaders often don't see the connections between markets and profits and the social and political movement that is gaining national momentum. A new organization is stepping in to try to bridge that gap. It is called the Unity Foundation.

The Unity Foundation is a non-profit organization and will provide a corporate clearinghouse for information about gay and lesbian organizations around the country. It will attempt to make resources from the business community available to those organizations. In addition, it will include an educational arm that will work to dispel misinformation about the community.

The Foundation will raise money as well, and provide grants to various organizations each year.

In order to kick off its efforts, the Unity Foundation will hold a national tour of "Unity Expos" this year in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and San Francisco. Each Unity Expo will feature seminars, entertainment, speakers, literary readings, and hundreds of informational booths. Some of the proceeds from each Expo will go to five non-profit organizations from each community.

Among the speakers lined up for the San Francisco Expo so far are Rep. Barney Frank, Marianne Williamson, Judy Nelson, David Mixner, Quentin Crisp, and Rod and Bob Jackson-Paris. Each expo will include a two hour comedy show. Panels from the Names Quilt will be displayed, and nationally known actors will perform a special reading of materials censored in the American public school system.

Speakers will include Judy Nelson, David Mixner, Quentin Crisp, and Rod and Bob Jackson-Paris.

San Francisco's Unity Expo will take place on August 13-14 at the Fashion Design Center. For information on membership or on the Unity Expo, call (415) 292-3230.

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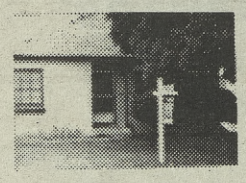

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San Francisco Parade Celebrates Stonewall

by **Michael Gorman**

With a distant roar of engines, a wild anticipatory cheer from the gathered crowd and finally the appearance of the vanguard of the Women's Motorcycle Contingent, a.k.a. Dykes on Bikes, The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration got underway.

The organizers estimated the crowd at 400,000, making the parade and festival the largest annual event in Northern California.

In a campy nod to this year's parade theme, one drag queen held a sign that read, "Stonewall was neither a stone nor a wall; discuss amongst yourselves."

"San Francisco to Stonewall: Pride and Protest" brought out more tie-dyed t-shirts and bell bottom pants and headbands than have been seen in San Francisco in twenty years. Signs and floats juxtaposed the skylines of New York and San Francisco, one float literally bridging the distance between the two cities that have so much in common politically and historically.

Armistead Maupin, whose struggle to find funding for a sequel to the PBS series "Tales of the City" has made national news this year, shared the Grand Marshall duties with Lani Ka'ahumanu, the renowned bisexual activist and author. Later in the day on the festival main stage, Ka'ahumanu eloquently berated those in the lesbian and gay rights movement who harbor anti-bisexual bias, pointing out that any bigotry is a danger to all.

RINK

Peter Pavey with life partner Tony Miller (acting Secretary of State) ride down the parade route.

RINK

Parade Grand Marshalls Lani Ka'ahumanu and Armistead Maupin.

The list of participating politicians was long, as was the list of major corporations represented by gay/lesbian/bisexual employee groups, including Levi Strauss, Pacific Telesis, AT&T, and Apple Computer.

The lesbian and gay parent's contingent was large, and more than one toddler slept in a stroller oblivious to the loud, supportive applause of the crowd. PFLAG was out in force, reminding the onlookers that some families break with "traditional values" and actually embrace their lesbian and gay children.

The parade weaved east and south this year to a festival site near Folsom and Fremont where the old Embarcadero Freeway used to be. The main stage was on a parking lot, leaving no place for listeners to sit and picnic during the program as many had in past years. The street dance, however, was as popular and crowded as ever.

As with all Pride events around the world this year, the San Francisco parade and celebration was purposely scheduled early to avoid conflicting with the New York Stonewall 25 March and Celebration. Many of the participants, including the athletes and Grand Marshall Armistead Maupin, would soon be themselves bridging the distance between "The City" east and "The City" west.

RINK

Supporters Dick Pabich, Dan Van Gorder and Timothy Rodrigues with Supervisor Carole Migden.

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STONEWALL

continued from page 5

ACT-UP and The Stonewall Veterans (a group of gays and lesbians who were involved in the riots) let it be known that they would march up Fifth Avenue anyway. Led by the original pink convertible that was impounded during the Stonewall riots, the alternate march stepped off with an air of rebellion.

ACT-UP wanted a greater focus on the AIDS epidemic than was being given by the official march. Gay and Lesbian Americans saw a need to demand a general sexual liberation. The Stonewall Veterans wanted the same visibility that other parades and marches receive in the city and also felt the march should begin in Sheridan Square outside the Stonewall Inn, sight of the 1969 riots. Gay and Lesbian Americans, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, sued for the second march on the free speech grounds that the alternate march had a different message. They lost the suit but decided to go ahead with the march anyway.

RICK GERHARTER

The rainbow was everywhere. Flags, streamers and balloons filled the streets of New York.

MICHAEL GORMAN

Men and women came from all over the world.

Police debated their response to the unofficial march, but in the end they halted traffic and let the march go on. A die-in was staged in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral, but both marches proceeded without incident. They met peacefully and merged just outside Central Park. By the end of the day, the hundreds of police began to look tired and bored, many of them sitting in groups on picnic tables or standing in clusters on street corners sipping sodas and talking. Several officers told *the latest ISSUE* incredulously that they had seen no fights or serious incidents all weekend. There were no arrests, but lots of overtime pay.

The march was truly an international event. Contingents from every continent save Antarctica marched past the United Nations: Russia, China, Columbia, South Africa, Taiwan, Japan, England, Greece, Mexico, Australia, France, Spain, India, an amazing roll call of nations. A rainbow of colors was as evident in the faces along 57th Street as it was on the mile-long flag sponsored by the Raise The Rainbow Foundation and the Statlander Foundation.

P.J. DUNKER

Happy lesbians at the march.

Although the march was less flamboyant than the usual Gay Pride Parade, there were drag queens and bare chests and feathers enough to keep the cameras flashing. Many of the foreign guests expressed a fascination with the size and openness of the event. "This could not happen in my country," observed one young man from Vietnam. "Maybe someday." For many from more oppressive countries, this was their first open celebration of their identities.

Yet even amid the open expressions of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender pride there was a small cloud of homophobia. Reverend Fred Phelps from Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas stationed his now-familiar little band of followers (mostly his family) on the sidewalk with the same signs they have carried to events ranging from The 1993 March on Washington to Randy Shilts's funeral in San Francisco. Predictably, the signs read such things as "God hates Fags" and "All Fags Burn In Hell." The police formed a human chain around the group while the marchers chanted, "Shame!" and shook their fingers.

Of all the groups that marched in Manhattan that day, several seemed to arouse the most applause and affection. One, of course, was Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Shouts of "Hi, Mom" were common as the surrogate parents to a million marched between sidewalks filled eight to twelve deep with onlookers. "Hi son!" and "Hi daughter!" were common replies.

A second popular group was a mass of marchers each carrying a placard with the picture of a loved one who had died of AIDS. There were men and women and children of all ages and sexualities joined by their common determination to remember. The applause was somber but intense. Also greeted warmly all along the route were

RICK GERHARTER

Activists came together for the "unofficial" Stonewall 25 march up 5th Avenue.

Many came to the March to pay tri

the two double-decker buses and numerous marchers making up the senior citizens contingent, and a large group of kids called Children of Gay and Lesbian Parents.

The group from South Africa prompted wild cheers.

At the entrance to Central Park, tired marchers filled the benches and draped themselves over grassy knolls, rocks and trees. At three o'clock a moment of silence descended on the park and on those still marching -- a remembrance of those who have died of AIDS.

In contrast, the rally on the Great Lawn in Central Park was upbeat, entertaining, provocative and sometimes irreverent. At one point the lead singer for the all female rock group Fem2Fem shouted, "This is for Stonewall!" and removed her top. Another member of the group followed suit. With a million gays and lesbians behind them, the police could do nothing. With ribald lyrics and suggestive dance the women played out the campy defiance that had marked the Stonewall riots. That spirit seemed to crackle through the crowd.

P.J. DUNKER

Liza Minelli sang a gay rights song at the rally.

MICHAEL GORMAN

The group Fem2Fem was one of the big-name acts that performed at the Rally.

The speakers and entertainers for the rally included Marga Gomez, Suzanne Westenhoefer, Amanda Bearse, Kate Clinton, Gregory Hines, Wanda and Brenda Henson of Camp Sister Spirit, Armistead Maupin and several cast members from Tales Of The City, Urvashi Vaid, Reverend Troy Perry, Jimmy Somerville, Kathy Najimy, Sir Ian McKellen, and Representative Gerry Studds.

When Sharon Bottoms and April Wade, who are fighting in the Virginia courts to keep custody of their son Tyler, were introduced, the crowd gathered on the lawn jumped to its feet and went wild with cheers and applause. Sharon burst into tears when the crowd spontaneously broke into chants of "Don't give up! Don't give up!"

Hot men were everywhere.

On a lighter familial note, RuPaul greeted the crowd with, "Hello my brothers and sisters! Today I feel like Diana Ross LIVE in Central Park. You're all so beautiful!" Family was the order of the day as Harvey Fierstein spread his arms and called the assemblage, "My children!" Marga Gomez had introduced Harvey by announcing that he will star this fall in his own network television show playing an openly gay man. The mutual admiration continued as Kathy Najimy (of "Sister Act" fame) did a tap dance in honor of Gregory Hines who tapped his greeting to the crowd. There was continual interplay and comraderie on and off the stage: family values that embraced across lines of color and sexuality and age.

Speakers from several oppressive countries, some of whom had been jailed for their sexuality, spoke of the encouragement they had gained during the Stonewall 25 celebration. They told of plans to take the spirit of the Gay Games and Stonewall back to their own countries, with a renewed hope of success.

Continuing the theme of hope for freedom and backed by a choir assembled for the rally, Liza Minelli sent the crowd wild with a rendition of her anthem written especially for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, which promises, "We will be free one day: if not today then the day after or the day after that."

In a surprise appearance, Carol Channing presented a special "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend" award to Lady Bunny, a well-known New York Drag Queen who founded the annual drag extravaganza --- Wigstock. Lady Bunny asked if the diamonds were real. Channing replied with her signature grin that, "They are given with real affection and regard."

As the light began to fade over the New York skyline, the tired but spirited crowd began to disperse with the end of the rally. Volunteers handed out plastic bags to save the Stonewall Committee clean-up costs and the tired revelers picked up the trash before wending their way out of the park amid a sea of rainbow colors and sunburned faces. As the evening drew to a close, human shadows converged on Pier 45 to watch the final fireworks display across the Hudson River. Couples cuddled in the cool darkness while a few diehards danced to someone's boom box. As the fireworks lit the sky, the people shared one last burst of shouts and applause before calling it a night.

MICHAEL GORMAN

Lovers kissed passionately in the parks.

There were planes to catch in the morning to a thousand destinations around the world. The subways would again be subdued and somber in a day or so, and the streets would be a little less colorful. Except in a million memories.

RICK GERHARTER

People gathered outside the Stonewall bar for photos.

MICHAEL GORMAN

to pay trib the drag queens of Stonewall.

the latest events

SACRAMENTO

JULY 15

Leatherfest - The Sacramento Leather Association's fifth anniversary celebration July 15-17. Events begin Friday at the Wreck Room. On Saturday, there will be seminars, demonstrations and a vendors' fair during the day at the Sierra Inn. Contests will begin in the evening. Call SLA at (916) 863-3398.

Sacramento Area Bisexual Network meeting at New Helvetia 1215 19th Street at 6:30 p.m. For more info call (916)863-3700.

Caron Vikre & Papa's Culture - are featured at this Summer Sammies Concert in Plaza Park, 5:30 p.m.

Lesbian/Gay/Bi Youth Group - discussing the challenges of growing up gay. 5 p.m., Lambda Center, 1931 L Street. Call (916) 442-0185.

Open House Jubilee - At the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op. Come see how they've changed. Food tastings, entertainment and store tours. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Free!

JULY 16

Second Annual Sacramento Dyke Daddy Contest and Fantasy Show - 8:30 p.m. at The Sierra Inn at Auburn & Fulton. Admission $10. Co-Emcees will be Donna Shrout and Skeeter Wildman. Call 863-3398.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show - Every Saturday night starring the live cast of Absent Friends at the Colonial Theatre. Doors open at 11:30. Call 334-LIPS. $5.

Sierra Herbal Institute - A Benefit Concert featuring R. Carlos Nakai. One of the country's greatest performing artists of Native American Flute. 8 p.m. at the Crest Theatre. $25. Call (916) 889-6431.

JULY 19

Suzanne Westenhoefer - Stars in her own HBO comedy special, airing at 10 p.m. on HBO. Suzanne is the first openly lesbian comedian to have her own comedy special on HBO.

Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer stars in her own HBO comedy special. It airs July 19.

(PFLAG) Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays - meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Educational Building, St. Marks United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Marks Way, (corner of Lusk), Sacramento. A video, "Positive Image" will be shown & discussed. Call (916) 722-0327.

JULY 20

HIV Positive Emotional Support Group - meets in the Buehler Building at 2800 L Street across from Sutter General Hospital from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call (916) 446-3734 or (916) 688-6442.

The Sacramento Men's Chorus (SMC) officially opens its Tenth Anniversary Season with the fundraiser QUINTESSENCE!--A Five Star Evening of Entertainment and Elegant Edibles. The reception will be complete with hors d'oeuvres, hosted bar, silent auction and entertainment. Located at Vizcaya, 2019 21st Street, Sacramento from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $25 per person. Call (916) 444-5213.

JULY 21

Royal Crown Revue & Daisy Spot - Plays at the Cattle Club - 8 p.m. $6. Call (916) 386-0390.

JULY 22

The Luminators & Glenn Lane & Soul Of The Blues - at the Summer Sammies Concert in Plaza Park, 5:30 p.m.

Shakespeare In The Park 1994 - The two shows featured this summer will be Twelfth Night and The Merry Wives Of Windsor. Admission is $7 general. Performances will be held in the William A. Carroll Amphitheater in William Land Park. Grounds open at 6:30 p.m. for picnic & pre-show activities, curtain time is 8:30 p.m. Shows run through Sept. 3rd. Call (916)558-2228.

JULY 23

The Blind Navigators (Pop/Rock) - Live Music at Duke's Coffee Gallery. No Cover, 9 p.m.- Midnight. Call (916) 444-5563.

JULY 26

Lesbian Support Group - in Auburn at 6:30 p.m. at the De Witt Center, 11512 "B" Avenue in the "Pool Rm." Call (916) 632-7080.

JULY 29

Tchicai & The Archetypes - at the Summer Sammies Concert in Plaza Park, 5:30 p.m.

JULY 30

Pasta Feed & Auction - Support the Women's Chorus in raising $4,000 for chorus risers at the Pasta Feed and Auction. Dinner at 6 p.m. Auction at 8 p.m. at the Temple Binai Israel on Riverside Blvd. For tickets call (916) 486-8985.

Deja Blu will rock Chico - An all women blues and rock band from San Jose will perform at 7 p.m. at the Church of Religious Science, 14 Hillary Lane, in Chico. Concert to benefit the 1994 Chico Freedom Fest. Tickets $10 at door. Call (916) 893-3336.

AUGUST 2

The legendary San Francisco Mime Troupe - will perform their latest show "Escape From Cyberia" at the Crest Theatre at 7:30 p.m. This will be their only Sacramento Appearance. Tickets are $10 & $8. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Housing Alliance. Call (916) 442-1198.

PLAN IT IN ADVANCE

To list your event in THE LATEST ISSUE, send a brief description of the event, along with a photograph before the 5th of each month to:

THE LATEST ISSUE
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August 3

HIV Positive Emotional Support Group - meets in the Buehler Building at 2800 L Street across from Sutter General Hospital at 7:30 p.m to 9 p.m. For more info call 916-446-3734 or 916-688-6442.

August 4

The Fantastics - Broadway's longest running show plays through August 13 at The Old Eagle Theatre. Call (916) 446-6761.

August 5

Scottfree & The Love Symphony - at the Summer Sammies Concert in Plaza Park, 5:30 p.m

August 9

Lesbian Support Group - in Auburn at 6:30 p.m. at the De Witt Center, 11512 "B" Avenue in the "pool Rm." Call (916) 632-7080.

August 13

Archival Framing's Gallery - Artist's reception from 7-9 p.m. at 1729 L Street, Sacramento. Featuring "What This Country needs is a good 5 cent cigar, cigar box art for recessionary times." Call (916) 444-9624.

August 20

National Homeless Animals' Day Call (916) 922-0570 for more info.

SAN FRANCISCO - BAY AREA

July 15

"Some Love" - a new musical by Henry Mach and Darien Martus. 7:30 p.m. at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint. $15. Plays through July 31. Call (415) 861-7933.

Telecast of the Fourth Annual Northern California Leather Awards -with Joseph Bean, The Leather Journal's Man of the Year for 1994, as master of ceremonies, with celebrities presenting the top Award for Leather Excellence as well as the Most Outstanding Man, Woman, Supporter, Business and Organization. Electric City TV Network, Viacom Cable 53, at 10:30 p.m. Call (415) 255-4663.

July 16

Swellegant Elegance - The life and music of Cole Porter hosted by Harvey Fierstein. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, 8 p.m. & Sunday at 3 p.m. War Memorial Opera House. Call (415) 863-4472.

July 17

AIDS Walk San Francisco - The ten kilometer (6.2) mile walkathon begins and ends at Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. Call (415) 392-WALK.

STEVE SAVAGE

Cast of the Mach and Martus musical, "Some Love" at Josies thru July 31.

July 19

Gay Comic Scott Capurro - in his one-person show. 8 p.m. at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint. Call (415) 861-7933.

July 26

Surgeon General M. Joycelyn Elders, M.D. to speak at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero. Call (415) 546-7211 for tickets.

Aug. 13

Unity Expo - See story on page 14 for details. Call (415) 292-3230 for ticket and booth information.

San Francisco Street Fairs

August 7

Dore Alley Fair -- (415) 648-3247.

September 25

Folsom Street Fair -- (415) 648-3247.

October 2

Castro Street Fair --(415) 467-3354.

RUSSIAN RIVER AND SONOMA COUNTY

July 16

Chili Cook-Off - At the Russian River Resort, 4th and Mill Streets, Guerneville. Call 1(800) 804-4RRR for more details.

July 22

"La Cage Aux Folles" - presented at The River Repertory Theatre. The play runs from July 22-Sept. 4. All performances are at the Jenner Playhouse, Hwy. 1. For tickets or information call (707) 865-2905.

July 23

Mud Wrestling - A benefit for San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund at Russian River Resort. Call 1(800) 804-4RRR.

July 24

Beach Party/Luau - with Irene at the Russian River Resort. Call 1(800) 804-4RRR.

August 6

Fourth Annual Russ Coughlan Memorial Pool Tournament - from 3 p.m. 'til ? A benefit for 1994 River's Cup Charities for PWAs at Molly Brown's Saloon. $10 donation per challenge which includes a t-shirt. Call (707) 869-9000.

August 7

Eighth annual River's Cup Canoe Race & Regatta - starts at 10 a.m. at Fifes Resort, Guerneville. A benefit for Sonoma County AIDS Charities: Face to Face, Food for Thought, & Henry House. Call (707) 869-9000.

August 12-14

Leather Weekend - For more info, see story on page 12.

August 19-21

Country Western Weekend IV - at the Russian River featuring The Campers from The Comedy Store on Sunset Blvd, Human Rodeo, Mr. & Ms. RR Wrangler Contest Tee Shirt Auction. Proceeds to benefit Food for Thought & Women's Breast Cancer Center. Call (707) 869-GLBA.

COBB COUNTY

continued from page 6

she says. "But it has all been wonderful. I've had so many good comments. I've just gotten a whole lot of support from so many people."

However, she has not yet talked to her father. When he was contacted by the media for comment after her announcement, he said he was proud of his daughter for speaking up. He also said she chose to be a lesbian and blamed his divorce from Shannon's mother for that choice, thus reinforcing his argument that "traditional" families are superior.

"I wanted to laugh," Shannon Byrne says. "That is such a good example of how the commissioners don't understand homosexuality."

Shannon and Cheryl have settled in Decatur, a small city east of Atlanta whose mayor officially welcomed gays and lesbians after Cobb County condemned them. She is working as a waiter and trying to establish herself as a photographer.

From time to time she has driven through Cobb, the county where she grew up. Now she has to worry about the gay stickers on her car. "I don't feel as safe as I should," she says.

And though she's not exactly sure what her future role will be in the Cobb County fight, Shannon Byrne, who has become that fight's most visible new symbol, intends to stay involved in some way.

"I definitely don't plan to go back to where I was -- hiding out and keeping quiet," she says.

COURT

continued from page 9

Fleming's gravelly voice and natural sense of humor help him fulfill his role of devil's advocate in an organization that is full of energized individualism. He helps to put the fun in fundraising.

A very special event-- 'Christmas in July'-- was held on July 2nd to say bon voyage to Rob Thorbin (Father Christmas of all California) who has been involved with the Court for years, and has been tireless in charity fundraising. Goodbye, Rob, and thanks for doing it your way.

A couple of other activities are taking place this month (besides Stephanie's birthday--hint hint). Member-at-Large Michael Setser will host the last of what had become monthly dinners at Hope House for residents who are not hospice patients. These residents must be out by August 1.

Finally, Co-Emperor J.P. will host his Third Annual Ice Show, this year Benefiting CARES, to be held Saturday July 30. There will be shows at 3 and at 8 p.m. JP plans to have some top-flight skaters on the ice with him, as his 'Ice Fantastics' show cools us off in the dog days of our Sacramento summer.

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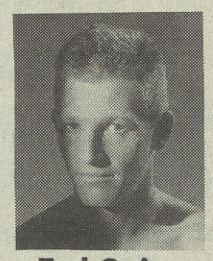
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Front Page Feature

Activist and First Lesbian Comic, Robin Tyler Reminisces

15 Years Of Women's Music and Comedy

by Joyce Bezazian

The West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival, held near Yosemite, is the second largest women's music festival in the country. Approximately three thousand people attend, and this year is the festival's fifteenth anniversary.

The festival is a dynamic, cross-generational celebration of women. I obtained an interesting look at the history of this event from it's founding mother, comedienne, producer and political activist Robin Tyler.

"A lot of people look at the Dinah Shore and consider that the largest gathering of women (about 7-10 thousand)," begins Tyler, "but it's not all in one spot. The festival is a city of women...including all the workers. It is a safe, "woman-only" space. In terms of entertainment, also, everyone playing at the Dinah Shore is also playing at the festival. Instead of seeing one group of comics here and one group there, we have them all!"

Tyler also dispels the myth that the woman's festival is a "70's folksingers" thing. "Even though we are having the great mothers of women's music (Cris Williamson, Tret Fure, Teresa Trull, et. all), we're also having younger, up and coming groups, like Disappear Fear. Strange Fruit are six Black women who do pro-woman rap to jazz, which is very different. And Sally Landers, who just signed an album deal, does rock...we have a huge night stage, which looks like The Hollywood Bowl landed in the middle of the woods. And all day long we have entertainment on the day stage, workshops, country western dancing (with Donna E!), and a tea dance."

> "Instead of seeing one group of comics here and one group there, we have them all!"

I asked Robin about the history of legal problems and battles she encountered in order to preserve the woman's festivals. "Within the first couple of years, the city of San Francisco threw us out of there because we were lesbians. When I found out that the Strawberry Festival was up there I sued (she lost the suit because of the statute of limitations, but not on the legality). Then the city said I had to include men because women were not an "oppressed minority", even though the majority were lesbians. Even though they allow "minorities" to rent for up to 25 days per year, women did not qualify . . . and Roberta Atchenberg agreed with their position!"

The festival has been in Tuolumne County near Yosemite now for nine years, and Tyler says, "We like it much better...it is more private. But we did have to go to the county and get a lawyer and rule that it is legal to have a woman-only event, and that it would change the nature of the event to include men. So the county of Tuolumne was more progressive than the city of San Francisco."

Tyler warns us, however, not to take for granted our hard-won right to gather. "It is the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, and I don't want gays and lesbians to think we have civil rights. What we have is "liberation". We do marches, we do parades, we can go on cruises...but we still have no civil rights. If anything, there's been a backlash. We have to remember that as a civil rights movement, our struggle has just begun."

Robin Tyler has organized the West Coast Women's Music and Comedy Festival for 15 years. In addition, she was one of the organizers of the March on Washington in 1987 and 1993.

Tyler believes one purpose of the women's festivals is to re-energize each other by recognizing lesbian issues, such as breast cancer. "I'm not competing," she clarifies, "I think we should have a national health care policy. But more women will die this year from breast

continued on page 29

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Entertainment

New Comedy Central Show Is "Absolutely Fabulous"

by **Chris Narloch**

Hold on to your hats, America. The funniest British TV show since the days of "Monty Python's Flying Circus" and "Fawlty Towers" is about to invade our shores.

It's called "Absolutely Fabulous" and, if the four episodes I saw are any indication, it may be the hottest show on cable.

"AbFab" (as it's called by its legions of fans in Great Britain) stars Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley as two pill-popping, hard-drinking fashion hounds in their forties who get themselves in and out of more hilarious scrapes than Lucy and Laverne and Shirley combined. It's a good thing the show is on cable over here - the best jokes would never make it past the network censors.

Episode 1

The first episode introduces us to the series' regular characters: Edina (Saunders), the twice-divorced, single mother trying to balance a career as a fashion publicist with her madcap social life, which she attempts to conceal from her straight-laced, teenage daughter Saffron (Julia Sawalha), who is repulsed by her mother's decadent lifestyle; and Patsy (Lumley), Edina's glamorous, but promiscuous, best friend, a fashion editor who is never seen without a cigarette in one hand and a glass of champagne in the other.

Episode 2

Here rich bitches Patsy and Edina decide to take a vacation from shopping and partying with a trip to Provence for some hardcore wine-tasting.

Their run-down guest house provides comical complications including cockroaches and a black out - enough to send these society gals right over the edge.

When Edina expresses a fear of mosquitoes her pal Patsy shows more sympathy for the insects:

"anything that bites you had better head for the Betty Ford Center."

Episode 3

My favorite of the first four episodes, this one finds Edina floating in an isolation tank at the outset (desperately trendy, she and Patsy try everything from chanting and colonics to 'rebirthing' in an attempt to stay young.) When Edina learns that Saffron does not want her to come to "Open Day" at the girl's college, heartbroken mom threatens her only child: "I'll adopt a Romanian baby- I'll be like Mia Farrow- I'll have one in every room!"

Episode 4

Edina, who acts half her age, is less than enthusiastic about turning forty in this segment: "look outside . . . are the buzzards circling yet?" Imagining hot flashes and fearing the worst, she wants to know who's coming before she'll attend her 'surprise' party. It turns out to be more than a girl can take, as her daughter invites her ex-husband and his boyfriend, and Edina loses one of her presents (Lacroix earrings) down the toilet. She blows out her candles with a fire extinguisher, and she and Patsy end up doing karaoke to the Stone's "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" with her "Mr. Microphone" gift.

Jennifer Saunders (Edina) and Joanna Lumley (Patsy) are two 40ish, fashion-crazed, chain- smoking, trend-chasing, boozer/ substance abusers who take London by storm.

It's a good thing this show is a comedy because the amount of substance abuse is shocking considering the watered-down fare we see on American TV.

Since the characters are rather pathetic - in a hysterical, lovable way - I don't think the creators are glamorizing anything except a healthy sarcasm. And although there are a few marginal gay characters, the only thing that's really bent about the show is its sensibility. Gays should love it.

"Absolutely Fabulous" debuts on Comedy Central in a 12-episode marathon beginning at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 24.

The half-hour series will also receive back-to-back plays at 8:30 and 9 p.m. from July 25-29, before settling into its regularly scheduled time slots on Saturdays at 4:30, Sundays at 11 p.m. and Mondays at 8:30 p.m.

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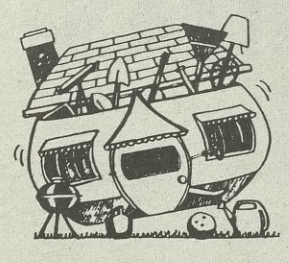

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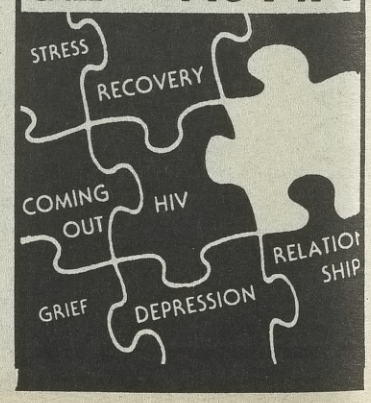


The Sacramento Symphony Goes Hollywood

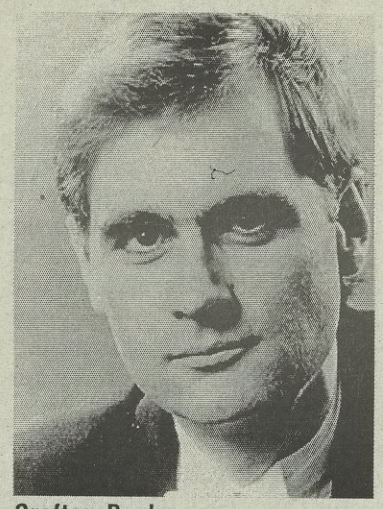
by **Michael R. Gorman**

Crafton Beck is an expert in the marriage of orchestral music and pop. Although, like most classically trained musicians, his heart is in the classic repertoire, he considers it thrilling to be a part of a movement that is showcasing the emerging music of our time.

On July 21, Crafton will be bringing his particular expertise to Sacramento with the Sacramento Symphony's "Hot Nights -- Hot Flicks" concert at the Community Center Theater.

Beck will be conducting the show, which features Academy Award winning music from films of the last fifty years. The concert will include an extended collage of clips from "Dances With Wolves" accompanied by the live performance of Barry's score. Rumor has it (you heard it here first if it's true and somewhere else if it's not) that a number from "Schindler's List" may be interpreted by a principle dancer from the Cincinnati Ballet.

The program will begin, at Beck's suggestion, with a tribute to the late, great Henry Mancini in the form of his "Pink Panther" theme. It will include



Crafton Beck.

"Tara's Theme" from Gone With The Wind, Menken's "A Whole New World" from Aladdin, the Babs hit "Evergreen" from A Star Is Born, and several movie themes by Williams, including "Star Wars." In discussing the show, Beck joked that he suspected that there might be one or two film buffs among the latest ISSUE's readership.

Talk around town is that the Sacramento Symphony is considering Crafton Beck for the position of principal conductor in River City. He has conducted here several times in recent years, including the Ray Charles concert at Arco Arena and the highly successful "Fright Night." His recorded arrangements have made Billboard Magazine's Classical-Crossover best-seller chart for five years in a row. In addition to his work with the Cincinnati Pops, Beck is the Music Director of the Carnegie Opera Theater, the Northern Kentucky Chamber Players and the Cincinnati Men's Chorus. He also taught for a time at Carleton College near Minneapolis.

Asked about the possibility of moving to the California capital, Beck told the latest ISSUE, "I like Sacramento tremendously. And that orchestra [The Sacramento Symphony] is the best kept secret in Sacramento. It is a phenomenal orchestra. I love working with them. There is no orchestra I enjoy working with as much. Orchestras have personalities. Sacramento's has spirit. Its performers are incredible. People should get out and hear it, not because it's the thing to do, but because it's great entertainment."

He added, "And I've done Old Town. I like Old Town. And the new plaza: I think it's exciting what's happening in downtown, people strolling, shopping, having cappuccino."

And on July 21, add to that mix the sounds of Hollywood's best performed by Sacramento's best, and Crafton Beck.

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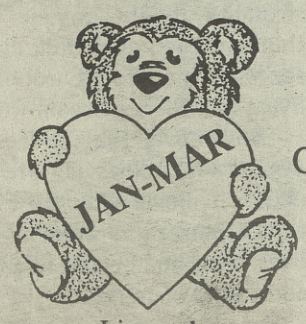

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Movies

What a Catch!!! Lesbians Finally Get Reel In "Go Fish"

by Chris Narloch

The upsurge in the number of gay movies in recent years - from "Torch Song Trilogy" to "Philadelphia" - has consisted mainly of male-oriented stories. Aside from a few pretentious duds, like "Claire of the Moon", lesbians were left in the dark as far as cinematic representation was concerned. Until now.

Male directors like John Duigan and Gus Van Sant have flirted with sapphic subject matter in recent months with their big-screen efforts (Duigan with the sexy, funny "Sirens" and Van Sant with the tame, disappointing "Even Cowgirls Get The Blues".) But it took two women to really open the door for lesbian filmmakers, and the result is the frank and funny new sex comedy "Go Fish", directed by Rose Troche and starring Guinevere Turner.

Comedy is the best way to approach taboo subject matter, and "Go Fish" is the first truly funny date movie for dykes. The narrative deals with the lives of a group of Chicago lesbians and centers on the odd-ball pairing of two members of that group - Max (played by co-screenwriter Guinevere Turner), a 24-year old shrimp with an angelic face and a quick wit and Ely (V.S. Brodie), who's thirtysomething, very tall and has a dry sense of humor.

As is often the case, their first date is a dud (they disagree on the merits of the movie they've seen, and the subject of Ely's "ex" comes up at an inopportune moment.) Their mutual friend, Kia (a wonderful performance by T. Wendy McMillan), is determined to bring them together and, with a little help from her friends, girl gets girl by fadeout.

My favorite scenes come in a series of lesbian bonding sessions where four of Ely and Max's friends dish and dissect the progress of the two lead character's potential union. In one of the funnier conferences - they're like pajama parties without the pajamas - the women debate the usefulness of the term "honey pot" as a euphemism for the female sex organ. Troche films these scenes in a unique way with her actresses head to head on their backs and the camera overhead (they look like June Taylor dancers with their torsos cut off.)

The real catch in "Go Fish" is Guinevere Turner, who provides the movie with its freshest, most natural presence. There's no doubt she's the star, and she gets most of the best lines. With her ever-present baseball cap turned backwards on her head, Max announces that she's a "carefree, single lesbo lookin' for love." Turner makes Max's brattiness endearing, and the movie allows her character to be herself.

The character of Ely is not as well-defined, but I rooted for the two women to get together if only because they make such an unusual match. After Ely gets a super-short haircut, she looks positively butch, and she towers over small, curvaceous Max. There's just enough chemistry between the actresses to suggest that opposites do attract.

The film is not without its flaws, but they are mostly the result of constrictions suffered by any filmmaker working on a limited budget. The acting of the supporting cast is not all it could be (several of them are non-professionals), and their line readings are occasionally awkward. And the choice of photography, a gritty black and white, was a mistake - a comedy like this desperately needed to be in color.

This is the director's first feature film, and she can be forgiven a few flaws, which include dependence on unnecessary narration and some "artsy" film school-style camera tricks.

Rose Troche (left) director of "Go Fish", with V.S. Brodie (center), who stars as Ely and Guinevere Turner (right), who co-wrote the film and stars as Max.

Her triumph here is that, without bashing men, she has created an entertaining movie in which lesbians are shown as a community unto themselves, and they are not punished for that fact.

To dismiss the movie altogether, as one local critic has done, is, I think, short-sighted. That the movie is not commercial enough to play multiplexes is not the fault of Rose Troche. She has done an impressive job considering the lack of resources allotted lesbians in the movie business. In Hollywood, where women in power are almost nonexistent, gay women, unfortunately, control 10% of nothing.

It's unfair, too, to complain that these women are obsessed with sex, since male-oriented movies rarely include female sexuality at all. Anyone who thinks women don't talk about sex when men aren't around is living in a Disney dream world.

Any movie that addresses women's sex lives is rare indeed. A movie like "Go Fish" that explores gay women's sex lives, with humor and heart, is some kind of miracle.

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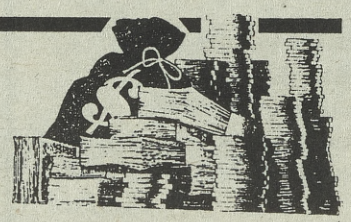

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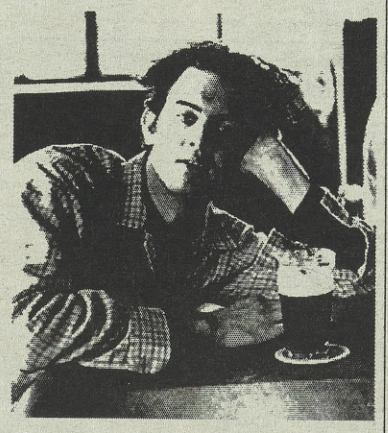
Music

Who Needs Salsa When You've Got Secada and Special Sauce?

by Bill Peterson

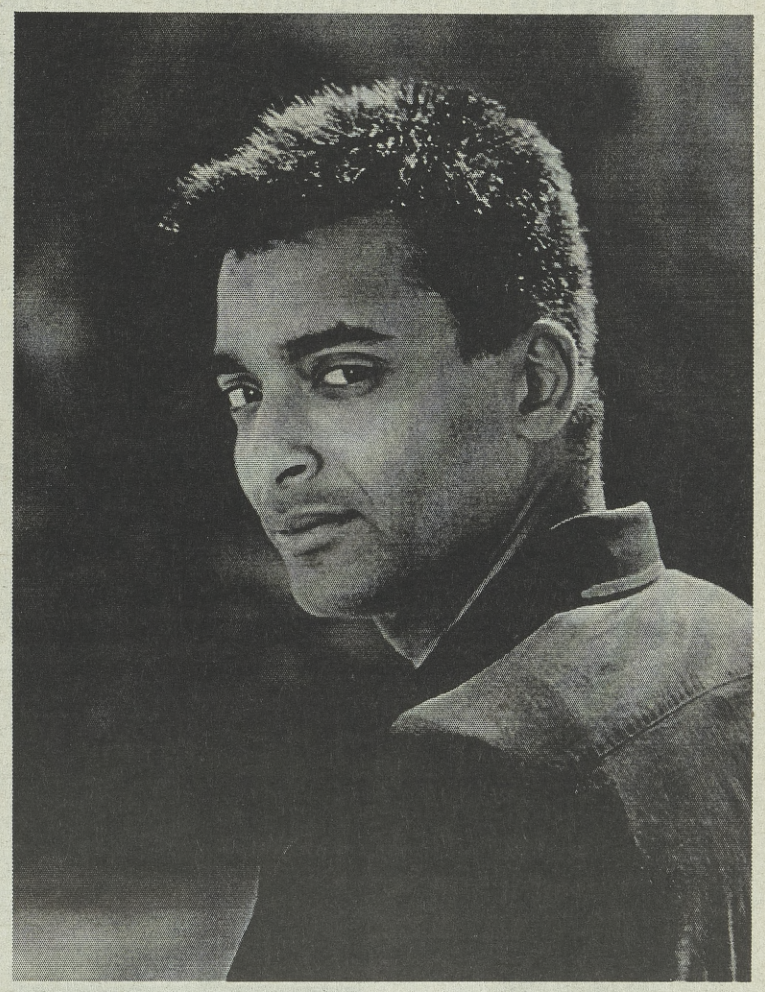
With summer in full swing, we need music that's as hot as the night air. Ladies & Gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to this month's dishes --- Jon Secada and G. Love and Special Sauce, who can spice up those long summer nights!

Jon Secada broke through in a big way with his debut album two years ago, and with his second album, **"Heart, Soul & A Voice"** Secada proves that his early success was not a fluke. Drawing on influences including Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and Earth, Wind & Fire, this time out, Secada comes within striking range of his idols. While some songs are unmistakably derivative (the tres catchy Marvin-esque "Good Feelings"), Secada injects a healthy dose of genuine steam and soul into things to keep from sounding like a south-of-the-border Michael Bolton. Opening with the doo-wop/hip-hop "Whipped", and continuing with "La La La" and the appealingly cocky put-down of - "Fat Chance/That I'd be seen together with you/Now don't be a waiting/ Woe woe fat chance/ That I'd be caught making love to you", **"Heart, Soul & A Voice"** is more aggressive and interesting than its predecessor, and worthy of fond summer memories that'll no doubt be associated with it.



Special Sauce's G. Love enjoys a cold beverage.

Speaking of spicy, I'm still trying to get the recipe for **"G. Love & Special Sauce"** - judging from the Philly-based trio's eponymous debut - there's some blues, a dash of hip hop beat, a cup o'jazz and some slurred and sloppy raps - "that ain't nothin' special" says you - ha! Think again - G. Love, the Houseman, and the Marshmellow Man concoct a down & dirty hybrid that will have you groovin' all over the house. Opening with "The Things That I used To Do", G. Love veers all over an upright bass-driven bluesy groove in a nearly Tom Waits yowl, before slowing things down with "Blues Music" - and many references to lemonade and other types of "Cold Beverage" - "On the front porch I got/Some iced tea/If you like the taste of tea? Then come along with me/It's martini time." Special Sauce crafts enough hooks the old-fashioned way - with stripped down playing (guitar, drum, and string bass) and no samples of jazz and funk classics. Listen to this cross of Red Hot Chili Peppers and B.B. King, and you'll be asking for a "cold beverage" of your own!



Genuine steam and soul emanate from Jon Secada's latest album.

50 words or less:

Tony Bennett:Unplugged - Who'd have guessed that MTV's newest favorite child would be vet crooner Bennett? In fine voice, and with excellent back

up by the Ralph Sharon Trio, Tony slides though 20 classics with welcome guests Elvis Costello and k.d. lang and gives us an alternative to the Webster's definition of "cool".

Youssou N'Dour: The Guide (Wommat) - Just as rap has been assimilated into mainstream pop, world music gradually makes the same transition. After inspiring Paul Simon & Peter Gabriel, N'Dour now duets with Neneh Cherry while singing mainly in Wolof. Closing with Dylan's "Chimes of Freedom," **"The Guide"** is most interesting for its cultural cross-breeding.

Blur: Parklife - What to make of this one? Switching genres from song to song, Britain's Blur never fail to surprise - or exhilarate. From new wave disco to twangy reverb-folk, and punk, this celebration of the common man may take a few spins to sink in, but is definitely worth it!

Neil Diamond: Live in America - Some artists enduring popularity is a mystery to critics and the majority of the public. Diamond is just such a creature. This two-disc live collection runs through his career, but the overblown production and his increasingly weak voice are just plain grating.

Leonard Cohen:Cohen Live - Dour, dreary and captivating, Cohen's influence on a generation of songwriters is made clear on this album, which features the classic "Bird on a Wire" and "I'm Your Man."

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Restaurant Review

Good Food and Friends in Sacramento

by **D.A. Borad**

Sacramento has many excellent restaurants, but there is a distinct lack of romantic restaurants -- particularly ones where same sex couples can feel comfortable having a traditional "night on the town."

One such place, however, is Il Fornaio in the Wells Fargo building at Fourth Street and Capitol Mall. Il Fornaio is something of a mixed bag, however. The atmosphere is wonderful, but the food is hit and miss, ranging from sublime to merely adequate.

Il Fornaio is beautifully appointed: the entrance is dominated by a marble bar, and the rest of the large dining room focuses on a two-story wall of windows looking out on tree-lined Fourth Street. All the exterior walls are mostly windows framed in honey-toned wood and thin vertical sections of white walls. Much of the seating is on their enclosed patio that, although facing one of Sacramento's busiest streets, is a calm, green oasis of flowers and vines. In the heat of a Sacramento summer evening, it is a perfect spot for a romantic dinner.

The menu consists largely of Northern Italian-style dishes, and there is a definite emphasis on fresh vegetables, poultry, and fish. Pizza and pasta dishes are prominent on the menu, and there are several meatless and vegan entrees as well.

My companion and I started with the Carpaccio ($6.95), thinly sliced, raw beef layered with grana cheese, capers and fresh arugula. The waiter brought an ice-cold platter that was beautifully arranged. Once at the table, he dressed the beef with a light drizzle of olive oil and fresh lemon juice, then plenty of pungent, cracked black pepper. The results were astonishing and the dish was by far the best of the evening.

I followed the antipasto with the Insalata del Fornaio ($4.95), the house mixed green salad. It was a simple mix of tossed greens and parmesan cheese with a garnish of two garlic croutons, dressed with a balsamic vinaigrette. The greens were crisp, but looked as if they had sat in the refrigerator a day or two, and the dressing, while very good, was too much for the greens -- the salad got soggy quickly.

My entree was the Piatto di Verdure al Forno ($9.50), steamed and grilled seasonal vegetables, served with squares of baked polenta and roasted garlic. This was the most disappointing part of the dinner, largely because of the uneven preparation. The selection of vegetables was extravagant, but some were overcooked, others not cooked through, and still others were perfectly prepared. Particularly unsatisfactory was the roasted garlic. It was undercooked, pasty, and instead of the warm, nutty sweetness I expected it was bland and almost completely tasteless.

The second entree, Tagliata Chianina ($13.50), sirloin steak marinated in rosemary, peppercorns, and balsamic vinegar and then grilled with more rosemary, was terrific. I could smell the dish almost before it reached the table, due to the scent of rosemary that permeated the meat. It was grilled rare and served cubed with steamed, julienned vegetables and fried potatoes that rounded out the presentation well.

We both had the house dessert for the night, Bonet Astigiano ($4.95) -- a coffee and chocolate custard served on an almond cookie crust. It was a perfect choice for rounding out a summer meal -- chilled, not too sweet, and with a tender texture.

Il Fornaio is an enjoyable destination for a light summer dinner, but its attraction is primarily the atmosphere. The food, while there are some standouts, is generally merely acceptable, especially considering the prices. But the service and ambience do make it an excellent choice for a quiet dinner for two.

(Il Fornaio is located at 400 Capitol Mall, Sacramento 446-4100.)

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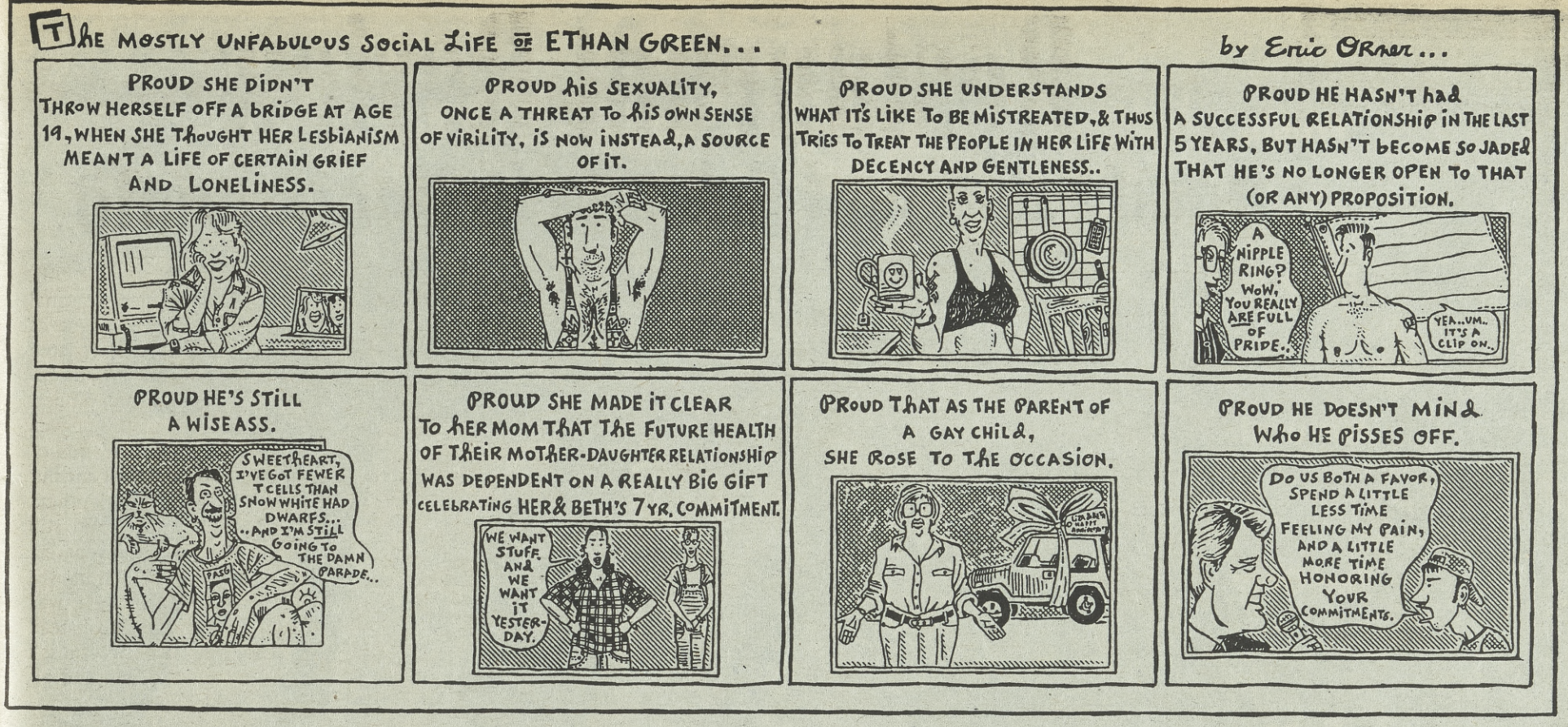
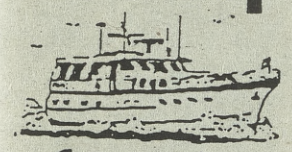

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...
by Eric Orner...
Proud she didn't throw herself off a bridge at age 19, when she thought her lesbianism meant a life of certain grief and loneliness.
Proud his sexuality, once a threat to his own sense of virility, is now instead, a source of it.
Proud she understands what it's like to be mistreated, & thus tries to treat the people in her life with decency and gentleness..
Proud he hasn't had a successful relationship in the last 5 years, but hasn't become so jaded that he's no longer open to that (or any) proposition.
A nipple ring? Wow, you really are full of pride..
Yea..um.. it's a clip on..
Proud he's still a wiseass.
Sweetheart, I've got fewer T cells than Snow White had dwarfs... ..and I'm still going to the damn parade..
Proud she made it clear to her mom that the future health of their mother-daughter relationship was dependent on a really big gift celebrating her & Beth's 7 yr. commitment.
We want stuff. And we want it yesterday.
Proud that as the parent of a gay child, she rose to the occasion.
Proud he doesn't mind who he pisses off.
Do us both a favor, spend a little less time feeling my pain, and a little more time honoring your commitments.

Dykes To Watch Out For

Lost in Paradise
©1994 by Alison Bechdel
192
After spending the day apart in order to achieve a wider sampling of New York City's dizzying glut of queer cultural and athletic events, Ginger, Lois, Sparrow and June have planned to rendezvous at the International Dyke March.
Huh... maybe we shoulda picked a particular corner.
Hey, Mattie!
Damned lesbians
Remember me? The BGLLF conference? We, um... ordered room service together!
Oh, er... Hi. Ginger, right? This is my lover, Priscilla.
Ginger, huh? I hope you stayed away from the seafood.
Mama was a femme
Meanwhile, Sparrow grows anxious...
Where are those girls? The march is starting!
Excuse me... your name isn't Prudence, is it?
Rat-a-tat tat Boom Boom
Mary was a dyke
Uh... it used to be. Who are y... Oh my god! Sister Mary Magdalen?
It's Frankie now, dear. I left the order years ago. Are you still drawing naked ladies in your catechism?
At 35th St...
Lois?! Omigod! I've been looking for you for years! It's me, Melissa, your freshman roommate! Remember? I was secretary of the campus chapter of Young Americans for Freedom?
rrrm
At 23rd St...
Where the hell is my girlfriend?!
Kambal Pilipina
Stomp Rumble
The Lesbian Avengers
In New Jersey, let's hope...
Mmm! June, I forgot what a good fit we were!
Woo!
Get it, girls!
9 ex-lovers, 6 tricks, 4 college alumnae, 2 girl scout troop leaders, 2 recovering drinking buddies, 3 civilly disobedient cellmates, 2 minor celebrities, 4 personae non gratae, 1 third-grade classmate and 87 casual acquaintances later...
Great! Still no sign of them and the march is over. This is the last time I make plans with those dizzes.
So where's this "girlfriend" you were supposed to meet? If you didn't want to come to the dance with me, June, you could've just said so.
Uh...
I am safe, I can take care of myself, and my friends have not abandoned me. I am safe, I can take care of my..
So Lois, you wanna come watch Babette get her tongue pierced?
Yeah, sure. Looks like my friends bailed on me. Which one's Babette?

Nautilus Society



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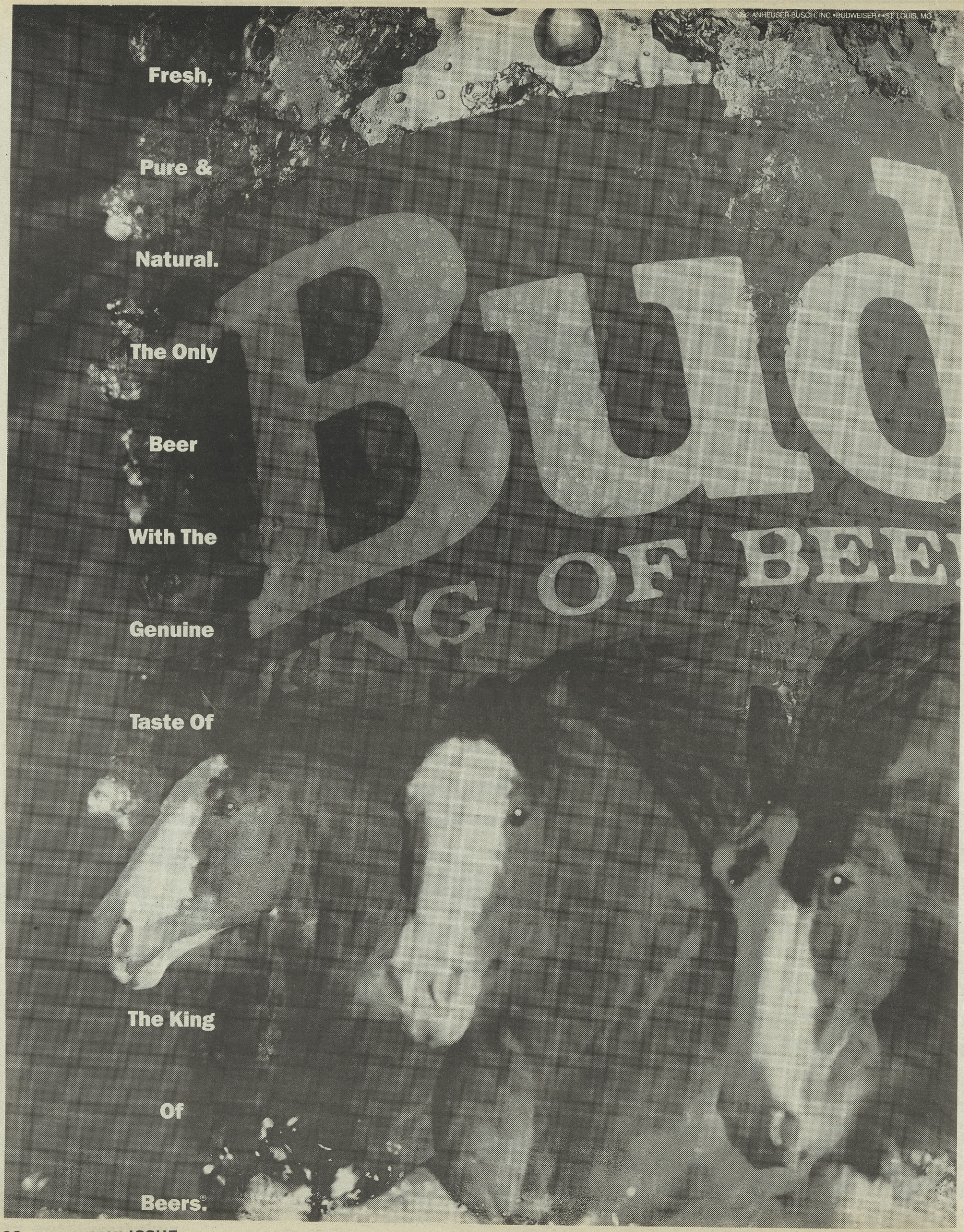
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Zodiascope

Astrological Forecast For Mid-July Through Mid-August

by C. Lichtenstein

How hot and steamy can July get? I guess it depends upon the planets. This month may seem less of a passionate play and more of an intellectual firestorm in many areas of our lives. This is thanks to the travels of Mars into intellectual and cool Gemini. Fine. So be it. This simply means that we can still enjoy the bods on the beach but should continue to keep our eye on the prize - true equality and dignity on both a personal level and for the entire community.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)
The lines of communication are open for business. You will have no trouble making your opinions known, but be sure that you have all the facts before you shoot off your mouth. On the bright side, you will be able to enjoy a victory or two at work - people actually like you and try to smooth over the rough edges for you there.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)
It's an excellent time to take some action on your investment portfolio. Read each document carefully and do your homework before you make a move. Once the homework is done, you will be able to profit from your efforts. Then, in true Taurus fashion, you will be able to kick up your heels and plunge into social scene. Everybody into the pool!

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)
Personal charisma soars? You may find yourself thrust into center stage. This may or may not be a good thing, depending on how you handle yourself in your professional pursuits. There still seems to be some struggles in your career and your "in-your-face" opportunity to shine may chaff those in authority. Although forewarned is forearmed, you still must have your day in the sun.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)
Powerful forces are at work - even now, your intuition is going wild. It is not a bad idea to go with your "little voices" (they do speak the truth), but look before you leap into action. Ask some pertinent questions - you will, more than likely, hear some good news in return. You possess the self confidence to recognize that you have made the right personal choice. Be your personal best.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)
Friends are there when you need them and you are there for them in return. Social obligations build to a frenzy, so be careful of overbooking your personal time. You may (finally) hear a spot of good news about investments. It's about time? Home projects continue apace - no sooner do you finish one stinking project, than another rears it's ugly head.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
Your hard work is beginning to pay off in your career. The efforts you put into specific projects now seem to be the engine that drives your success. The planets are also nicely placed so that, even in your success, you can appear to others to be kind, warm, personable and gracious, even if you are not so inclined? Grab for the gusto and the promotion.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Pack your bags and take a trip (or two or three). You are absolutely energized and raring to go. You even seem to have the funds to do what you please with whom you please. A rare gift is available through any type of volunteer work for our community. Try to allot some time to give something to others, whether it's time, money or expertise.

SCORPIO (Oct.. 24-Nov. 22)
You are especially sexually active this month but try to be a little choosy with your time and partners. There is also an indication that parties and arenas of fun and frolic may not be all they are cracked up to be right now; too much fun will have its penalties. Keep the fires of passion burning, but dish it out selectively, match by match.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec.22)
You are finally getting an opportunity to get away from all the frantic misery at work. It's all been much too much, but now you will direct your energies into partnerships and one-on-one relationships. Not a moment too soon; you were getting a little too frayed at the edges and a little too overwhelmed on the job. Relax a bit and let the good news dribble in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23- Jan. 20)
Roll up your sleeves and get to work. You will have the energy you need to tackle any and all tasks with supreme efficiency. Ask for clear and concise instructions before you begin the job - there is no sense wasting time and this powerful energy. Any legal issue will go well and any vacations planned at this time will be lovely and very enjoyable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Party animal! There is no stopping you this month as the energy compels you to dance, perform, paint, play or gamble with reckless abandon. Spend only what you can well afford to spend - finances are still a source of trouble and concern. Don't be foolish here. Thank goodness there are people around you who care about your future.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)
This is a wonderful time to hang around your home and fully enjoy your surroundings. Puttering is not a bad idea this month - you may be able to finish many little around-the-home projects that you have been putting off. You may also hear some good news about relationships; that which has been given up for lost may be found again.

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WOMENS

continued from page 21

cancer than gay men will die of AIDS. The point is not to set up competition, but to make people aware that there are women's and lesbian issues that are never dealt with."

Robin Tyler's latest project is working on a retirement community for women. She encourages anyone who is interested to write her. "I think it's the next step for us, so that we have some kind of community that's not just one week a year." When asked about the many hats she has worn through the years, she speaks of some of the accomplishments she is most proud of. "I was the first openly gay or lesbian comic on stage in 1978, and the first on national television in 1979 (The Phyllis Diller Show). I'm also the only one who has been on the executive committee for all three of the marches on Washington."

"Watching the movement grow like that, from almost a hidden underground culture, to now being visible...recognized both by ourselves and the outside world...to participate in this age, to be in on the beginning of this movement. I've been in the right place at the right time. I think I've been tremendously lucky in being able to participate at historic times, which is why my hat is always changing. I have had the honor of meeting such fantastic women. Never did I think when I was this little kid in Canada that I would meet such fantastic people who would contribute so much both to women and to the lesbian movement."

In terms of personal growth, Robin has also come a long way. She speaks in her comedy act about coming from a family background of murder, insanity, incest, and rape, "but you can't let little things stop you... the fact is that instead of remaining a victim, I try to use the bad things that happen to try to heal. I know that women need to heal, and to become survivors, or maybe even a winner rather than remaining in a victim position. I'm very glad that the day of "victim feminism" is over. I've seen a change in the past twenty years in the women's movement towards healing, which is very important."

On the home front, Robin boasts about being "the mother of two german shepherds, a little chinese pug, and a cat." And although they are no longer lovers, Tyler has lived with the same woman and they have stayed together as a family for twenty-nine years. "Her name is Pat Harris," says Robin," and we used to be a feminist comedy team called "Harris and Tyler"...You know, Patty and I were talking this morning, and we feel that as we're getting older we're getting calmer and just feeling so good about everything."

Robin anticipates this years women's festival will be the biggest yet, and really hopes that women of all ages come to enjoy this anniversary celebration.

Editor's note: For information on tours, cruises, the Women's Music and Comedy Festival and the Women's Retirement Community, contact Robin Tyler Productions, Inc., 15842 Chase Street, North Hills, CA 91343 or call (818) 893-4075.

POP QUIZ - Multiple Choice:

a) ♀ + ♀ = ☺
b) ♀ + ♀ = ??
c) ♀ + ♀ = ♥
d) ♀ + ♀ = ☹
e) ♀ + ♀ = !!!
f) ♀ + ♂ = ??
g) all of the above

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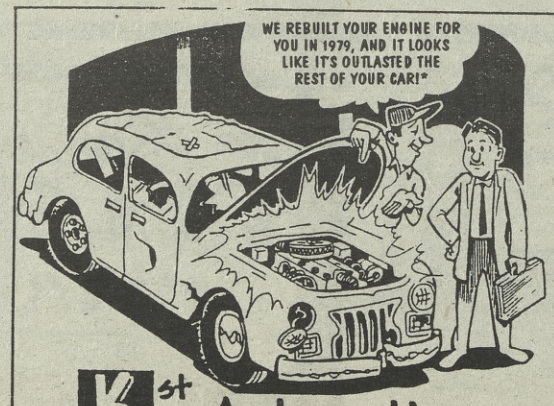

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Smoot Landscaping, custom landscapes and design. (916) 454-1300.

Martial Arts

Sacramento Bushido Kai, (916) 444-5977

Muffins

Muffins Etc., 5635 H Street, Sacramento. (916) 452-1829.

Optometrist

Dr. Cameron Yee, 6407 Riverside Blvd. Sacramento. (916) 395-0673.

Organizations

Lambda Community Center, 1931 L Street, (916) 442-0185.

Sacramento Area Career Women's Network (SACWN) (916) 451-8034.

Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, (916) 486-4633.

Pets & Fish

Animal Housecall Service, Dr. Nancy Weagly, Veterinarian. (916) 456-0967.

Capitol Aquarium, 29th & T Street, Sacramento. (916) 452-5556.

Printing

Sacramento Quick Print, 2612 J Street, Sacramento. (916) 442-5615.

Real Estate

Jessica Booth, Lyon & Associates. (916) 969-6076, 557-0597 or 782-0551.

Remy Ceci, Realtor, Sacramento, (916) 972-0212 (w), 557-4144 (vm).

Jackie Knight. the Piedmont Company. (916) 626-7011.
Vicki Pfingst, Pfingst Realty, Sacramento, (916) 362-1166

Bill Spencer, Prudential-California Realty, (916) 453-1500, 399-9733(h).

Resorts

Holly's Place, A women's retreat in Tahoe. (916) 544-7040.

Restaurants

Ernesto's Mexican Food, 1901 16th Street, Sacramento. (916) 441-5850.

Pescado's, 2801 P Street, Sacramento. (916) 452-7237.

Taqueria - Taco Loco, 2326 J Street & 1122 11th Street Sacramento. (916) 447-0711.

Taxes

Gail Gibson, bookkeeping and tax preparation for individuals and business. (916) 683-2221.

Marsha Oritt, Consolidated Investment Services, Inc. (916) 965-5437 or 672-2439.

Whitney and Killick, 2321 Lloyd Lane, Sacramento. (916) 486-8985.

Travel

Aladdin Travel, Shannon Davis, 818 K Street Mall, Sacramento. (916) 446-0633.

Papillon Travel, Specializing in International travel. Will Dunnigan-Shread.(916) 451-1944

Sports Leisure Travel, 9527-A Folsom Blvd. Sacramento. (916) 361-2051.

Window

Visions, Mobile Showroom available by appointment. (916) 451-6757.

Russian River Area

Bars

Rainbow Cattle Company, 16220 Main Street, Guerneville. (707) 869-0206.

Cafes

Coffee Bazaar, Cinnabar Street Shops, Guerneville. (707) 869-9706.

Camping

Ring Canyon Camp Ground, 16747 Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville. (707) 869-2746.

Massage

Rosemarie's, Therapeutic Massage, (707) 869-2983.

Resorts

Fife's, 16467 River Road, Guerneville. 1-800-7-FIFES-1.

Russian River Resort, 16390 Fourth Street, Guerneville. (707) 869-0691.

The Willows, 15905 River Road, Guerneville. (800) 953-2828.

The Woods Resort, 16881 Armstrong Woods Road, Guerneville (800) 47-WOODS.

Restaurants

The Annex Restaurant, 14880 River Road, Guerneville. (707) 869-1800.

Vacation Rentals

Redwood Property Services, 16222 Third Street. (707) 939-RENT.

Russian River/Sonoma Coast Vacation Rentals, Ellye Youmans, (707) 869-4560.

ALADDIN TRAVEL

Wishes a fond farewell to

Travel Agent

Rob Thorbin (a.k.a. Santa)

Rob is moving to Phoenix, Arizona after 10 years of dedicated service to his valued travel clients and the community at large.

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